

**Get set for the tests**  
Parents' essential guide  
Today: science  
TESTPLAN PAGE 15

**Fashion for fast women**  
Donna Karan, designer for those on the move  
PAGE 16

**The beef-free shopping guide**  
A look behind the labels  
PAGE 11

**Schmaltzing through the night**  
Nigella Lawson braves the Oscars ceremony  
PAGE 17

Farmers urge £700 million cull of old cattle to win back public confidence in safety of beef

# Cabinet may accept call for slaughter

By Philip Webster, Michael Hornsby and Charles Bremner

THE Government was last night seriously considering the destruction of thousands of cattle as the only way to restore confidence in the beef industry as European veterinary officials upheld their plans for a world ban.

For the first time, the Prime Minister accepted that he might have to go beyond the advice of his scientific experts and embrace the National Farmers' Union scheme for the destruction of older cows. That would involve the incineration of more than 800,000 animals a year, mainly from dairy herds, and cost up to £700 million in compensation. Some 16,000 a week would be culled as they reached the end of their working life and their carcasses destroyed rather than used for food.

The NFU put forward its plan - which has the support of the Country Landowners Association and leaders of the food industry - as farmers appeared to accept that there was no chance of controlling the catastrophe by reassuring consumers. But Tory MPs were privately critical yesterday, saying that one day the Government was proposing a cull, the next suggesting it would do nothing more, and then apparently reviving the slaughter option.

John Major said that the proposal would be carefully examined, but he blamed Labour for fanning public hysteria and made plain that if the cattle were killed it would be because the Government had been forced to accept that confidence could not be restored by the "sensible practical" measures that had been taken.

In a vicious Commons clash with Tony Blair, he said that Mr Blair, Harriet Harman and Paddy Ashdown were to blame for destroying confidence after the Labour leader

**INSIDE**

- Matthew Parris..... 2
- Peter Riddell..... 10
- Shoppers' guide..... 11
- Simon Jenkins..... 18
- Leading article..... 19
- Letters..... 19

had accused the Government of "mind-boggling incompetence" in handling the crisis.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, was also given a rough ride over the Government's approach yesterday when mothers called a BBC Radio phone-in to accuse him of "appalling complacency and a 'frightening lack of concern' for public safety.

The selective slaughter scheme put to Mr Major, Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown by the NFU president David Nash yesterday is the option that would be the least disruptive to farmers while still being radical enough to stand a chance of impressing consumers and opinion abroad.

It is estimated that up to 16,000 cows are slaughtered for food every week, most of them dairy cows up to seven years old. The carcasses are mainly used to make cheaper meat products and have also been a big element in the export trade with France.

Older dairy cows are the most likely to have eaten the scrapie-infected feed that is thought to have caused "mad cow" disease before it was banned in 1988.

Sir David said: "The events of the past week show that we have gone beyond the stage of relying solely on science. The Government must take immediate action because the steps announced so far have failed to restore confidence among consumers and the entire food chain."

Ian Gardiner, the NFU's director of policy, said: "We would be looking for compensation of around £800 an animal. We recognise that there would be real problems

in disposing of this many animals. We have no market at all for that beef now because it is not on the menu anywhere and not in shops."

Ewen Cameron, the dairy farming president of the CLA, said: "I really do believe this would help to put the beef industry back on its feet because we would be removing any risk of BSE getting into the food chain. Most beef animals are slaughtered at no more than two years and no animal that young has ever developed BSE."

If the Government goes for the scheme, it will have to decide the minimum age of cows to be taken out of the food chain, whether to distinguish between BSE-free herds and others, and whether there might be a limited all-herd slaughter policy for the most affected herds.

There would also probably be an argument over the level of compensation. The NFU's figure of £800 per animal is about £300 more than the average market price for old cows before the crisis broke last week.

The need for action has become more urgent as the European Commission is almost certain to impose a world ban on British beef exports today. The Commission's veterinary committee yesterday rebuffed British efforts to avert the move, which officials described as a pointless exercise undertaken at Mr Major's insistence.

One French official said: "Why doesn't this fellow deal with the problem he's got instead of trying to unload the blame on Europe. Others said that Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, and Keith Meldrum, the Chief Veterinary Officer, had had nothing new to say.

The ban will be formally announced after a vote among commissioners. The result is a foregone conclusion as only Sir Leon Brittan and possibly Neil Kinnock are likely to oppose the embargo.



Stephen Dorrell yesterday with cow motif cards from staff for his 44th birthday on Monday. The Health Secretary tells *The Times* today of the events that led to a government decision "to trust the people, give them the facts and leave them to draw mature conclusions". Interview, page 10

## Mafia may have sold herd infected with BSE

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALIAN complacency over mad cow disease turned to alarm yesterday as another case of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease surfaced and there were fears that the Mafia may have sold infected beef.

The Government sent 5,000 health inspectors to border points and processing plants to look for signs of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in meat and live cattle.

Police impounded British beef in Sardinia and Turin, and gave a warning that smugglers with possible Mafia links were trading British beef under "false health certificates" from Ireland.

Italy was one of the last EU countries to ban British beef last week. The press and media have bombarded Italians with reassuring statements from the authorities and experts, with the Ministry of Health stating repeatedly that there was "no cause for alarm".

The Ministry of Agriculture said that only "negligible quantities" of beef were imported from Britain, and

there was "no risk to the Italian consumer". But it emerged yesterday that Francesco Melillo, 57, from Avellino, near Naples, had died in January from CJD after visiting friends on Italy's Adriatic coast. The death follows two publicly acknowledged cases of BSE in Sicily.

The *Corriere della Sera* newspaper, reporting growing

public "doubts and anxieties" over meat, milk and cheese products, said that Italy had been "under-dramatising" the crisis.

In Sicily, concern rose after it was revealed that most of a herd in which BSE had been discovered had been spirited away by the Mafia and may have been slaughtered for food.

Sources said that two cows suffering from BSE had been killed last year at Castellammare del Golfo, on the west coast of the island, on a farm belonging to Agostino Lentini.

He is now in prison for alleged Mafia activities. When inspectors went to his farm, the remaining cattle had disappeared.

"There is a real risk of contamination," said a veterinary surgeon at the Institute for Animal Diseases in Palermo. "We have to step up controls, since many Sicilian farmers are not exactly keen to reveal the origin of their livestock."



## Birds Eye stops making burgers

BIRDS EYE has stopped making beefburgers at its factory in Lowestoft, Suffolk, and moved the 1,000 workers to other production lines. But the frozen food company said that it would continue to sell its full range of products.

At the same time, the boycott of beef products grew as Virgin Atlantic Airways removed beef from its in-flight menus. British Airways also suspended beef from its children's menu and will no longer offer it as a single choice.

Even the Ministry of Defence is advising military caterers that they should offer an

alternative in barracks and Naafis.

Cattle markets throughout Britain were almost empty again yesterday as farmers stayed at home and beef prices continued to plunge. The number of cattle being traded was no more than 2 per cent of the level last Tuesday.

Most abattoirs are refusing to accept stock because they cannot find any markets for the carcasses and farmers are holding their cattle back in the hope that demand for beef may recover.

In supermarkets, sales of turkey, pork, lamb and chicken were forging ahead.

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## John Snagge dies aged 91

John Snagge, the voice of boat race radio commentaries for almost 50 years, has died aged 91. The broadcaster achieved fame during the Second World War when the BBC decided that its announcers should identify themselves to the public to avoid confusion with propaganda broadcasts from Germany.

Obituary, page 21

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The Times on the Internet  
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



## British charity worker is kidnapped in Cambodia

By Tom Walker, Leyla Linton and Carol Midgley

CHRISTOPHER HOWES, a British charity worker kidnapped at gunpoint in north-west Cambodia, is believed to have been seized by a break-away Khmer Rouge faction.

Mr Howes, 36, was taken hostage with up to 27 other volunteers as he supervised nine clearing near Slem Reap. By last night he and his Cambodian interpreter were the only two who had not escaped or been released.

The kidnappers drove their captives north into Varin district, towards the Khmer Rouge strongholds along the Thai border. Radio messages intercepted by the United Nations World Food Programme suggested that a ransom of £260 was being demanded for each of the Cambodian hostages then still held.

As Mr Howes' family awaited news at their home in Bristol last night, they were aware that all the Britons kidnapped by the Khmer

Rouge in the past two years had been killed. Dominic Chappell, Tina Dornay and Mark Slater were all executed by the group in two separate incidents in 1994, along with two Australians and a Frenchman. The only foreigner to survive a Khmer Rouge kidnapping in the past two years is Melissa Himes, who worked for an American group.

Last night the Cambodian Government was negotiating for the release of Mr Howes and his assistant, Ieng Mouly, a Cambodian official, said



that 12 hostages had escaped and ten had been released.

Mr Howes, who is unmarried, had been working as a mines specialist for the United Kingdom-based Mines Advisory Group, a non-political organisation that has been active in Cambodia since 1992. He helped to train civilians in the detection and destruction of anti-personnel mines and had previously worked in Northern Iraq.

Archie McCarron, the group's programme director for Cambodia, said in Phnomh Penh, the capital, last night: "It seems they were taken by a roving band of deserters. We don't know anything about who they are."

In Britain, Roger Britton, director of the charity, said: "We are very concerned for the welfare of our staff and are hopeful of an early release. We would like to affirm that our de-mining operation in Cambodia will continue."

## Exam answers are put on Internet

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

CYBER cheating came to Britain yesterday when up to 20,000 candidates for Scotland's most challenging school mathematics examination discovered that they could read some answers on the Internet.

An unknown person has already solved problems accounting for 10 per cent of the marks in the Higher Grade examination, which is used for university entrance, and posted the answers on the global computer network. The solutions are for a coursework section, which allows pupils ten days to investigate topics away from the pressure of the examination hall.

The Scottish Examination Board last night resisted pressure to scrap the questions, which were unpopular with critics who claimed that parents did much of the work.

A board spokesman insisted that the answers alone would not be enough to satisfy examiners. But teachers' leaders said that inaction would

amount to a "cheat's charter for the rich". Those with computers would enjoy a clear advantage over colleagues from poorer homes.

Fred Forrester, deputy general secretary of the Educational Institute of Scotland, said: "We will never know how many pupils read the answers. Nobody wants to get rid of these practical and investigative elements, but we are being overtaken by new technology and I do not see any alternative to awarding all this year's marks for the conventional examination."

The board said project work had been developed to test skills that could not be demonstrated in a traditional examination. "Each candidate has to produce a solution to the investigation under supervised conditions without the use of any notes, so candidates who have not properly understood the work involved would be unable to produce a satisfactory answer."

TV & RADIO ..... 46-47  
WEATHER ..... 24  
CROSSWORDS ..... 24-48

LETTERS ..... 19  
OBITUARIES ..... 21  
SIMON JENKINS ..... 18

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 44  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 20

MEDIA & MARKETING 23  
FASHION ..... 16  
LAW REPORT

# Countryside ramblings bring out the unseen beast in Tony Blair

A brave attempt by Robert Waring (Lab, Liverpool W Derby) to interest the nation in lingering deaths through asbestosis failed at Prime Minister's Questions yesterday. Poor lamb: does he not understand? Until further notice, death by mad cow disease is the only permissible topic of parliamentary discourse. All other deaths are of no account, all other diseases trivial. Gun laws? That was last week. Is China at war with Taiwan yet? Sorry, our attention slipped.

It is just possible that if the Second Coming were to occur today, an MP might put down a Written Question. It is conceivable that if a meteor the size of Belgium were reported to be in imminent danger of slamming into the heart of London, some misguided backbencher might suppose this interesting enough to raise with the PM. Otherwise, MPs who know where their party advantage lies are best employed polishing sound bites on encephalopathy.

Foremost among these is Tony Blair. With Her Majesty's Opposition roaring in support behind him, the Labour leader scored a decisive victory in politics if not in logic yesterday by demanding that John Major quantify the unquantifiable. Major's failure to do so, quivered Blair in his churchiest stage tenor, amounted to "mind-boggling incompetence".

"Hear, hear!" shouted the Opposition. MPs seem to think that if they shout "What is the risk? What is the risk?" loud enough, or demand "Is it safe? Yes or no?" with sufficient urgency, then the fact that nobody knows the answer to these questions will just dissolve in the face of their clamour.

Mr Major looked stumped for a means of resisting it. People often complain that MPs refuse to give a straight answer, but it would have been a brave and foolish PM who tendered an honest "I don't know" to the House of Commons yesterday.

So instead, Major tried to turn the tables on Blair and paint the Labour Party as the villains of the piece. If our beef industry were needlessly destroyed, he said, and panic triggered, we would know who to blame.

But the Prime Minister is whistling in the dark, and an undertone of exasperation in his voice yesterday suggested he knew it. The government benches, who support him to a man and woman over this, looked baffled and angry at their inability to get their counsel of hesitation across in the Chamber or to the nation.

Added to their practical concern about public alarm, it has come as something of a shock to the Parliamentary Conservative Party to discover how unscrupulous an instinct for the jugular Tony Blair possesses. Up until now it has been fashionable among them to represent him as out of his depth: possibly even well-meaning, but lightweight, a fresh-faced assemblage of vacillities posing as a leader, cruising for a bruising when the country finds him out.

Now they see his ruthlessness. The skill and speed with which he has exploited this crisis, the *sang-froid* with which (as they see it) he can contemplate even the slaughter of four million cattle for the achievement of a few extra points in the opinion polls, dismays them.



MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

## Whitehall tries to stop publication of Scott documents

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

SIR RICHARD SCOTT is involved in a dispute with Whitehall over plans to publish thousands of confidential government documents which he examined in the course of his inquiry into arms-to-Iraq.

More than 12,000 official documents, referred to in the Scott report, are due to be published in full in May, probably on CD-Rom. Several senior civil servants are unhappy at confidential advice to ministers from named officials being made public.

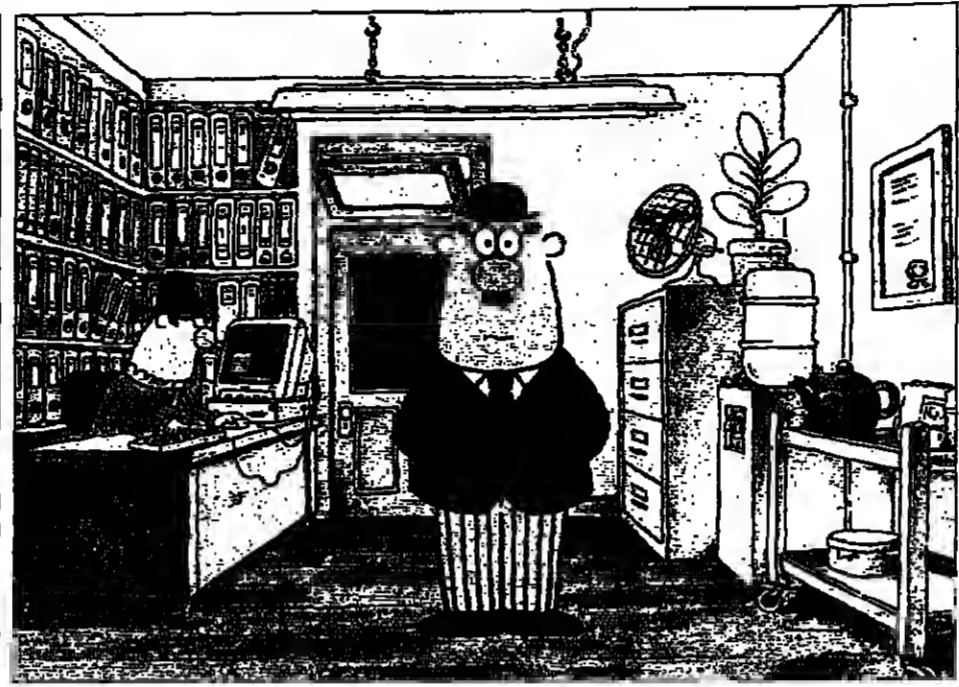
Scott officials are at present in discussion with Whitehall departments over what should be published and how much should be excised. "The negotiations are very civilised but there are differences of opinion," a Whitehall source said.

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### Tories support data freedom

JOHN MAJOR will come under fresh pressure from MPs today to introduce a Freedom of Information Act. The Tory-dominated Select Committee on the Ombudsman will recommend that Parliament enshrine for citizens a statutory right to official information.

Richard intends to make public. However, material provided by the intelligence services to the inquiry will not be published. Sir Richard's favoured form of publication is CD-Rom, although this still requires the permission of Parliament. The documents will be presented to the House of Commons, as was the Scott report, but MPs will need to agree to accept them in electronic, rather than a more traditional, format.



An Inland Revenue advertisement for Hector showing him in "sexist" attire

## Hector the Inspector taxes patience of Revenue staff

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

TAX officers have taken umbrage at an advertising campaign which depicts them as humourous, old-fashioned "jobsworths" in bowler hats.

Services Tax and Commerce Union, said: "Inland Revenue workers are mostly young, female, low-paid and worried about their job security. They are not the sort who will be swaggering about town in a bowler hat."

Mr Steel, whose union represents 90 per cent of Inland Revenue employees, said that the figure belonged to a pre-war era. "We are fed up and some find it downright offensive."

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## Asbestos company challenges judgment

ONE of Britain's biggest engineering companies claimed in the Court of Appeal yesterday that it was not liable to pay compensation to people who developed cancer from breathing asbestos dust.

## Railtrack sell-off cheap and cheerless

MILLIONS of small investors encouraged to buy into the giant privatisations of the 1980s have been sidelined in favour of more sophisticated shareholders in the latest government sell-off.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## RUC 'should drop pledge to Queen'

The RUC should drop its oath of allegiance to the Queen and implement a series of modest reforms to make the force more acceptable to Roman Catholics, the Northern Ireland Police Authority said yesterday.

## Tory revolt on divorce

Rebel Tory MPs are plotting a fresh revolt over the proposed reform of divorce law in the Commons next week.

## School governors sought

Robin Squire, the Education Under Secretary, launched a £445,000 campaign to attract 60,000 school governors but denied there was a crisis in recruitment.

## Bridge work too far

A programme to strengthen road bridges to carry heavier lorries in line with new European regulations is behind schedule.

## 20p trial cost £130,000

A teenager charged with stealing 20p was cleared yesterday after two Old Bailey trials costing £130,000.

## Dunblane girl home

Amie Adam, left, shot in the thigh when Thomas Hamilton opened fire on her class at Dunblane Primary School two weeks ago today, killing 16 of her classmates.

## Irish bomber jailed

James Ginley, 41, who spent 14 years on the run in the United States, was jailed for seven years by the Special Criminal Court in Dublin yesterday for his part in a planned cross-border bomb attack in 1981.

## Scratching for Britain

The British Olympic Association has launched a charity scratchcard with a top prize of £100,000 in an attempt to raise £1 million to help fund British athletes taking part in this year's games in Atlanta.

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# Killer 'knifed and shot Britons in Australian forest'

By ROGER MAYNARD  
IN SYDNEY

A CAVALRY sword, probably used to decapitate one of his victims, was among a mass of evidence linking an Australian roadworker to the murders of seven tourists, a court in Sydney was told yesterday.

On the second day of the "backpacker trial" of 51-year-old Ivan Milat for the murders of two Britons, three Germans and an Australian couple, a jury was told that they were "killings for killing's sake". Earlier the prosecution raised the possibility that more than one person might have been involved in the attacks.

The young victims were killed in a forest outside Sydney, using rifles and a large knife, Mark Tedeschi, QC, for the prosecution, said. He said a leather leash and other restraints were found near by and with some of the bodies, buried in makeshift graves in the forest.

As Mr Milat took notes, Mr Tedeschi added: "The seven backpackers were killed in ferocious and sustained attacks in which vastly more force was used than necessary to kill." Six of the backpackers were taken in pairs. Mr Tedeschi said the remains of two German tourists were found near what appeared to have been a "shooting gallery" in the forest where restraints and spent ammunition littered the ground.

One of them, Anja Habschied, had been decapitated, possibly with the cavalry sword found in the home of Mr Milat's mother, Mr Tedeschi said. Habschied's



Milat may have used sword to chop off head

his home on the outskirts of Sydney where police found camping equipment belonging to the victims as well as parts of a rifle that fired ammunition found at the scenes of three killings, he added.

A rifle bolt found hidden in a wall cavity in the house was used at the scene of Miss Clarke's murder and near where the bodies of the Germans were dumped, he said. Blood-stained sash cord was also found in the garage and genetically tested against blood samples provided by Miss Clarke's parents.

Mr Tedeschi listed for more than an hour camping and personal equipment owned by the victims and found by police among the defendant's belongings. It included a photograph of his girlfriend, Challenger Hughes, wearing a green and white Benetton top which matched one worn by Miss Clarke.

Mr Tedeschi said that such had been the ferocity of the stabbing attack on Miss Walters that the knife cut several of her vertebrae and her spinal cord, which would have left her paralysed. A piece of fabric used to gag her was still tied around her head and her underwear was missing. Miss Clarke had ten bullet wounds to the head and stab wounds to the back and chest.

Mr Milat has also denied attempting to abduct Paul Onions, a British tourist, who allegedly escaped from him after he gave him a lift in January 1990 by throwing himself in front of an oncoming vehicle to summon help. The case continues.



Before and after: the Duchess of York in typical exuberant pose and showing off her new sophisticated image



# New-look Duchess presents bold face

By EMMA WILKINS

THE Duchess of York has posed for a series of glamorous photographs which claim to show that she has adopted a new look to accompany a new lifestyle.

The photographs, published by *Hello!*, were taken during a seven-hour fashion shoot at a Paris hotel in January. The deal with the magazine was arranged by the Duchess's friend, Princess Marie Esmeralda of Belgium, who is co-owner of a photographic agency called Press Impact Italia.

According to the magazine text, the Duchess has created a new look which combines "appealing fragility" with "ob-

vious determination". A spokeswoman for the Duchess declined to say whether she had been paid for the photographs or would be donating any of the money to charity.

Earlier this year Buckingham Palace made it clear that the Queen was no longer prepared to offer financial support to her daughter-in-law, who had a bank overdraft of at least £1 million.

"The deal was put together by Princess Esmeralda," the Duchess's spokeswoman said. "It is still being discussed where the money is going. The Duchess has always given generously to charity in the past."

The Duchess's new lifestyle includes

workouts five days a week with her personal trainer, which prepared her for a gruelling desert horse race in Qatar last week. "The Duchess is now incredibly fit. She has lost a considerable amount of weight. We think the photographs look stunning," the spokeswoman said.

The fashion photographer Andre Rau took the shots of the Duchess, who is shown in black trouser suits by Yves Saint Laurent. Mr Rau told the magazine: "She's really incredible. I hardly needed to tell her what to do."

"At first I thought she might be a bit aloof because of her title, but she wasn't like that at all. In no time at all, we were all calling her Sarah."

# Blunders at Scrubs helped jailbreak

By A STAFF REPORTER

A SERIES of security blunders surrounded the escape of two convicted murderers from Wormwood Scrubs, the first inmates to escape since the spy George Blake fled from the west London jail 27 years ago, a court was told yesterday.

An 18ft ladder used to scale the perimeter wall had been left out and the inmates who escaped had not had their movements properly logged. Knightsbridge Crown Court was told.

In addition, concerns had been raised about a security camera "blind spot" where a blow torch was used to cut a hole in the inner security fence. John Geeson, the prison's security governor, also said he suspected a maintenance man who had been in charge of the prisoners had helped them to get away.

Mr Geeson was giving evidence on the first day of the trial of Anthony Coughtrey, 23, and Gary Johns, 30. They deny false imprisonment but admit escaping last July.

The pair, who were serving life, and a third murderer had been detained by Michael Goldsmith, the maintenance man, to paint a workshop floor next to the perimeter wall. Nicola Merrick, for the prosecution, said the two men overpowered Mr Goldsmith, tied him to an armchair and placed a pillowcase over his head. The third prisoner was tied up after he made it clear he wanted nothing to do with the escape. The trial continues.

# Colleague guilty of assault for harassing woman

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A MAN who harassed a female colleague with letters and telephone calls for two years was found guilty of assault yesterday. Gaetano Constanza was convicted in spite of never attacking the woman with whom he had become infatuated after speaking on the telephone.

It is the second successful conviction of a stalker under existing criminal law within a month. Stalking is not an offence at present, but both the Government and the Labour Party are considering making it a specific crime.

Yesterday Louise Wilson, 23, was in the public gallery at Luton Crown Court as Judge Moss told Constanza that his offence was "exceedingly serious". Constanza was remanded in custody while psychiatric reports are prepared and warned that he faced a "lengthy custodial sentence".

Miss Wilson, of Round Green in Luton, said afterwards: "I am determined to get my life back to normal. I don't want to be a victim any longer, and now this case is over I can start to get my confidence back to do the things I used to enjoy".

Constanza, 31, from Luton, pleaded not guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm between 1993 and last year. The prosecution claimed his behaviour amounted to an assault by causing Miss Wilson to become ill. She was

treated by her doctor for constant sickness and weight loss and when she was referred to a psychiatrist was diagnosed as being clinically depressed.

He bombarded her with 800 letters, telephone calls and bouquets of flowers after they spoke on the telephone at Vauxhall Motors, where they both worked. Constanza, an Italian, wanted to go out with Miss Wilson.

She told the jury that he had invaded her life with letters, silent telephone calls and visits to her home. As his obsession increased she became afraid to leave her home, stopped playing sport, attending a combat club and walking to the shops because he would be watching her movements.

The judge said the jury had to be satisfied that when Constanza carried out his campaign he intended to harm or was so reckless that he ignored the risk that Miss Wilson, a computer operator, could suffer mentally. They also had to agree that his actions directly caused her clinical depression as opposed to simple anxiety and stress.

Constanza admitted he had pursued Miss Wilson in the hope that she would go out with him. "I did not understand her reaction to me, I was acting in a decent manner. I let my emotions get away with me," he told the court.

# Wildlife workers call hunt to kill fox

By EMMA WILKINS

A WILDLIFE conservation trust was forced to seek help from a local hunt after a fox killed 25 birds at a waterfowl gardens.

The animal had made repeated raids on the Peakirk Waterfowl Gardens near Market Deeping, Lincolnshire, killing birds valued at £3,000 over six weeks. They included a rare Hawaiian goose and a flamingo. Bromley Clarke, the manager, was forced to overcome moral objections and called in the Fitzwilliam Hunt, which found and killed the fox on Sunday.

The waterfowl gardens were founded in 1957 by Sir Peter Scott and are home to 800 birds from 140 species. The Hawaiian goose was one of the most popular birds at the centre, which receives 50,000 visitors a year.

Mr Clarke said: "We are in the conservation business but we were at our wit's end to know what to do with this fox. We had tried every other humane way to get rid of it."

The Fitzwilliam Hunt did not turn out in costume but one of the joint masters with half a dozen hounds tracked the fox to its lair near the edge of the gardens.

One of Britain's premier trout fishing waters, Blagdon Lake near Bristol, was closed after 250 fish were found dead. Pollution is being investigated as a possible cause.

# Miniature snail slows pace of Newbury bypass work

By TIM JONES

WORK on part of the Newbury bypass could be further delayed while conservation experts decide what to do with Desmoulin's Whorl, a snail no bigger than a breadcrumb.

Lawyers acting for Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, gave an undertaking in the High Court yesterday that they would consult English Nature about the endangered snail before moving in to clear the Rickety Bridge campsite. Demonstrators said that the snail study could delay work by weeks, although this was denied by Alan Odey, the Highways Agency project engineer.

The 2mm-long snail, *Verdaigo mouliniana*, is protected under the European Habitat Directive, which requires governments to protect the best sites as special areas of conservation. Desmoulin's



Desmoulin's Whorl is only two millimetres long

Whorl may have been living in the area since the last Ice Age. Dr Martin Willing, who surveyed the site for Friends of the Earth, said the population was "the densest I have seen for more than 20 years".

Demonstrators opposing the nine-mile, £100 million bypass had hoped that the Government would be forced to designate the site as a special area of conservation. Mr Justice Sedley said that the undertaking by the Department of Transport meant that it would discuss with English Nature the method and location of clearance of the site. The consultation would have the intention of ensuring that the snail population was not disturbed.

The judge dismissed the appeal by demonstrators that they had a right to be on the land to defend the snail because of the Government's failure to pass conservation orders.

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THE TIMES  
How  
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THE proportion of people who drink sensibly has almost a fifth. The increase of alcohol reluctance among give up causing the Government to remain uncommitted. In 1984, 14 per cent of men drank 14 units and women 10 units. The increase of more than 14 units over the last 10 years in general population. The increase of more than 14 units among men and women. Men also reduce their consumption more than 14 units.

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# Howard hails success of strategy but insists ministers are far from complacent Fall in crime marred by rising violence

By RICHARD FORD AND STEWART TENOLER

VIOLENT crime and robberies increased last year in spite of an overall drop in recorded offences in England and Wales for the third consecutive year. The 2.4 per cent fall to 5,123,600 recorded offences during 1995 was also blighted by a rise in crime during the second half of the year.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, praised the downturn, pointing out that it was only the third time this century that there had been three consecutive falls. The others were 1912-15 and 1951-54. He was unable, however, to explain why there were 42,776 more recorded crimes in the second half of 1995 compared with the first six months. "I cannot guarantee that every set of crime figures that are produced will follow the downward trend," he said. "We continue to be determined to fight crime and we are sending a message to the criminal that there is no hiding place. Our strategy is having an impact but we are far from complacent."

Police welcomed the decrease in 1995 but said that the

rise in violent crime was a matter of concern because it was an area less susceptible to prevention initiatives. Violent crime rose 2 per cent from 310,900 to 316,300 and the number of robberies, mostly street muggings, rose 14 per cent to 68,400.

Sir Trevor Morris, Chief Inspector of Constabulary, suggested that one reason for the increase in robbery might be that police operations against mugging had encouraged more people to report incidents.

Fred Broughton, chairman of the Police Federation, said: "We should be very concerned by the increase in reported robberies. Although violent crime is still only 6 per cent of all known crime, the underlying trend is upwards."

The clear-up rate for offences has not improved. A culprit was found for only 26 per cent of crimes, the same as in 1994. Interviews with criminals already in jail accounted for 20 per cent of the offences cleared up.

Mr Howard will unveil the next phase of his drive to curb



The Home Secretary said the statistics were sending a message to criminals

crime when he announces proposals for tougher sentences tomorrow. He is eager to ensure that the rise in the second half of last year is contained. There were falls of 1 per cent in 1993 and 5 per cent in 1994, giving a total fall of 468,000 crimes during the past three years. In spite of this, however, there has been an annual average increase of 3.6 per cent in recorded crime

during the past decade. During 1995 there was a 15 per cent increase in drug trafficking, to 21,300 offences, a 24.7 per cent rise in perverting the course of justice, to 4,413 and a 16 per cent increase in kidnapping, to 1,250.

Violence against the person fell 1 per cent from 219,200 to 217,500, in contrast with the overall rise in violent offences. It is the first time since 1949

that offences of violence against the person has fallen in a calendar year. Within this category, the number of homicides — including murder, manslaughter and infanticide — rose 3 per cent to 746. Threats or conspiracy to murder rose 3.8 per cent to 7,061. Recorded child abductions increased 24 per cent from 337 to 361. Sexual offences fell 5 per

cent to 30,400, the first drop since 1990. Gloucestershire police recorded the largest year-on-year fall in this category, of 30 per cent, but its 1994 figure was increased by the Frederick and Rosemary West case.

The number of reports of female rape remained stable at about 5,000 and there were 152 reports of male rape, which was made a specific offence in the 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act. Buggery and indecent assault of men and women fell, as did the number of reported offences of unlawful sexual intercourse with girls under the ages of 13 and 16.

Property offences fell 3 per cent to 4.8 million. Burglary from homes fell from 679,600 to 646,700 though burglary from other premises rose 3.3 per cent to 597,029. Home Office staff suggested that the increase was linked to changes in how the offence was classified. All forces now record burglary from a garage or shed that is not attached to a house as non-domestic.

Vehicle offences dropped 4 per cent from 1,376,400 to 1,323,500: thefts from a vehi-

cles fell from 842,000 to 814,000 and theft of cars or unauthorised taking away dropped almost 5 per cent to 502,925.

The Home Office's annual statistics carry a warning, which points out that a large proportion of crime is unreported as many offences are not reported to the police. The British Crime Survey, which is based on interviews with a representative sample of 10,000 people, consistently shows a much higher rate of crime than the police statistics.

A 17 per cent rise in muggings was announced yesterday by the Metropolitan Police, whose figures were included in the Home Office statistics. But Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner, said there had been a sharp drop since the launch of Operation Eagle Eye, aimed at preventing street robbery. In August 1995 the number of muggings was 3,570; in February this year it had fallen by 28 per cent to 2,587.

Sir Paul blamed a 9 per cent rise in recorded burglaries in London on the reclassification of garage and garden shed break-ins.

SATURDAY  
IN THE TIMES

Kate Muir meets Emmanuelle Béart, femme fatale, in the Magazine

Melvin Bragg on goddesses ancient and modern, in Weekend

PLUS  
Car 96, Weekend Money, 1015 for young Times readers and Vision, the 7-day television and radio guide

## Household Survey

### Elderly disprove predictions of a feeble old age

By IAN MURRAY AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

BRITONS are not only living longer but are staying healthier in old age, according to an authoritative survey on the health of the elderly. Although the population is growing older, there is no increase in the proportion of feeble, infirm or dependent people. The finding suggests that the 21st century, far from being a nightmare of weak old people becoming a burden on the shrinking proportion of young people, could be a golden age of active, sprightly pensioners.

The figures surprised researchers at the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, who yesterday published the General Household Survey 1994. Bob Barnes, head of the social survey, said: "Despite the ageing population, the proportion who cannot get out and look after themselves hasn't changed."

"Potentially that has quite a large significance for the next century if that were to be the beginning of a trend. If the proportion of dependent disabled unable to look after themselves doesn't increase, it is not such a gloomy outlook as some are predicting."

In the past 25 years, the number of people aged over 75 has increased from 4 per cent to 6 per cent of the population. The proportion of these pensioners aged over 85 has increased from 6 per cent to 9 per cent since 1980, an increase of about 110,000 people in the oldest age group.

Nearly 40 per cent of all elderly people said their health had been good over the

past year compared with less than 25 per cent who said it had not been good. This is a slight improvement on the 1980 figures, but the fact that there are now many more in the older age group means that overall the health of the elderly is improving.

The need for health and social services support has nevertheless grown because the proportion of elderly people living with their children or close relatives has dropped from 21 per cent to 15 per cent since 1980.

Elderly people said they were able to do less than usual on 54 days a year because of illness, but overall only 13 per cent said they were unable to manage going out and walking down the road unaided.

The researchers were concerned about the 39 per cent who lived on their own but were unable to perform simple self-care tasks. Of these, 9 per cent needed help to bathe and 31 per cent could not cut their own toenails. Among those aged over 80 the proportion rose steeply.

"This group will require intensive support from an outside source, either relatives or friends or NHS or personal social services, if they are to remain living in the community," the report says.

Those living alone are buying more modern gadgets, although they are more likely to have a microwave oven than a video recorder or CD player.

Living in Britain: Results from the 1994 General Household Survey (HMSO, £23.50)

### More women drink 'unhealthy amount'

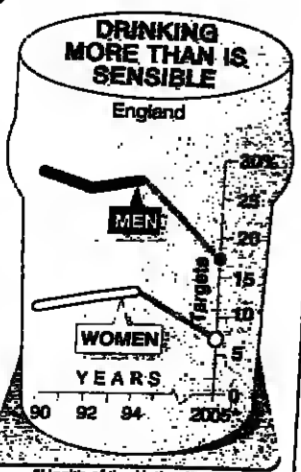
THE proportion of women who drink more than is sensible has increased by almost a fifth in two years.

The increasing popularity of alcohol and a growing reluctance among smokers to give up cigarettes are putting the Government's Health of the Nation targets in jeopardy.

By 2005, ministers want fewer than 7 per cent of women to be drinking more than 14 units of alcohol a week (seven pints of beer or 14 glasses of wine). Although the Government raised the sensible drinking level for women to 21 units in December, the Health of the Nation targets remain unchanged.

In 1984, 9 per cent of women drank 14 units a week. By 1992 that had risen to 11 per cent and yesterday's survey shows that by 1994 13 per cent drank more than 14 units. "You can't overlook the increasing access to alcohol over the past 20 years in supermarkets and general stores," the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys said. "You also have the increased popularity of drinking among women, perhaps to do with increasing independence and wider social life."

Men also seem reluctant to reduce their drinking, with 27 per cent continuing to drink more than 21 units a week.



The Government wants to reduce the figure to 12 per cent by 2005, although it has since raised the sensible drinking level for men to 28 units.

Although smoking is declining, the rate of giving up is much slower than in the 1970s or 1980s. The Government wants fewer than 20 per cent of both sexes to smoke by 2000, but 28 per cent of men and 26 per cent of women are still smoking.

Among girls aged between 16 and 19 cigarette smoking rose to 27 per cent in 1994 from 25 per cent in 1992. In 1974, one in three men smoked cigars, but 20 years later the figure was down to 6 per cent.

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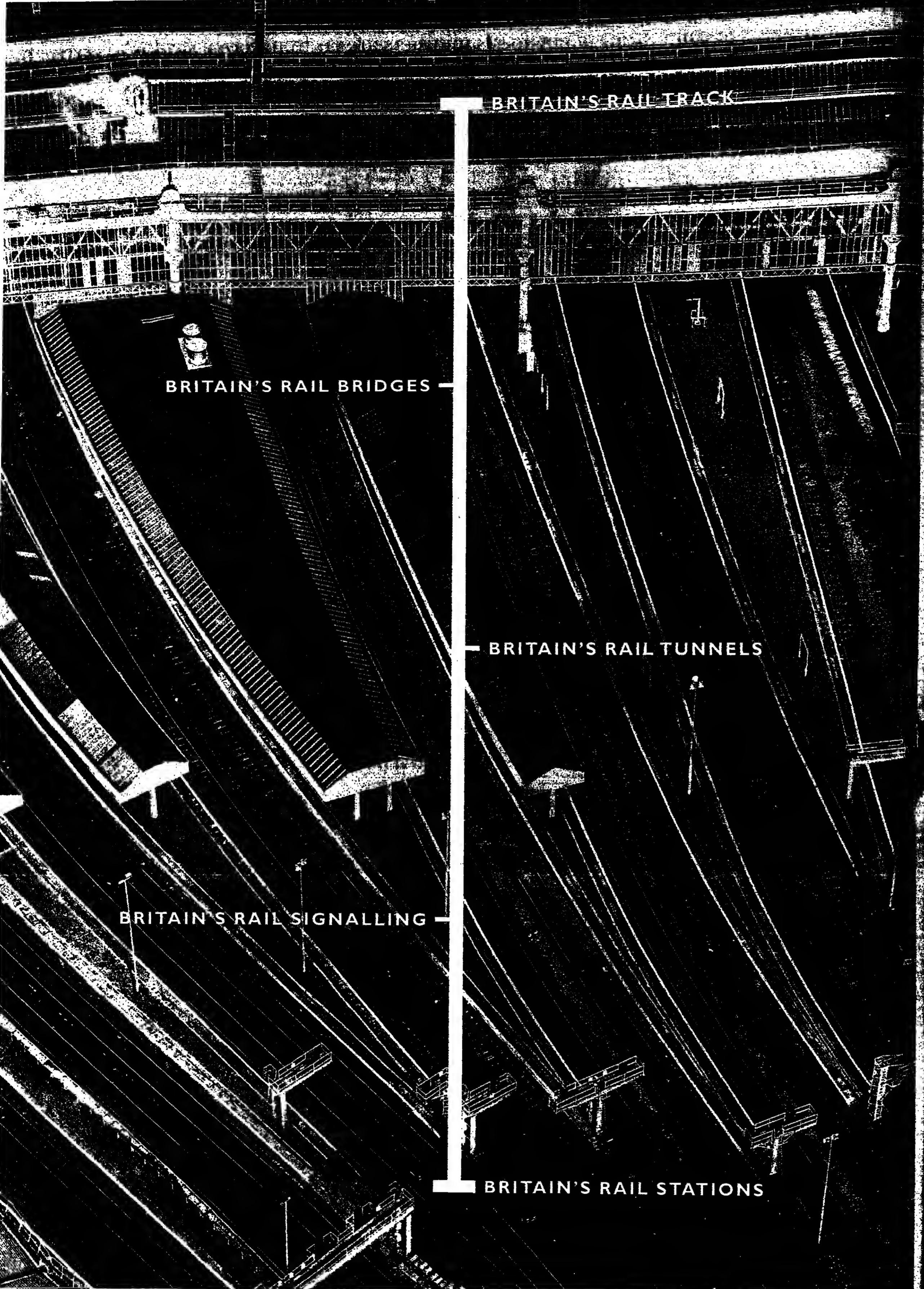
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A funny thing happened to British animator on the way to the theatre

# Thompson scores Oscar double with thanks to Austen

By DALYA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH stars and film-makers basked in the Oscars limelight yesterday, with Emma Thompson and Nick Park making cinema history.

Thompson scored an unprecedented double by adding an Oscar for the screenplay of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* to her acting trophy, the 1991 Academy Award for Best Actress. Nick Park, creator of the *Wallace and Gromit* characters, won the Best Animated Short Film prize for the third time. Park's 1996 Oscar for *A Close Shave*, commissioned by the BBC, joins his Academy Awards for *Creature Comforts*, 1991, and *The Wrong Trousers*, 1994; he has won an award for each film he has submitted.

Receiving the award for the Best Adapted Screenplay at the Los Angeles ceremony on Monday night, Thompson, 36, said: "Before I came, I went to visit Jane Austen's grave in Winchester Cathedral to pay my respects and tell her about the grosses. I don't know how she would react to an evening



Nick Park with his third Oscar

like this, but I do hope she knows how big she is in Uruguay."

Park, 37, who runs Bristol-based Aardman Animation, made a typically modest speech: "To Wallace and Gromit and all the crew back home, thanks a lot - we did it again." He confirmed he had had talks with Hollywood executives about making a feature-length animated film. But Wallace and Gromit will not be in it.

It used to take all day to shoot 48 frames of Wallace

and Gromit animation - two seconds of final film. A bigger team, with Park "directing", meant *A Close Shave* was completed at the lightning pace of six seconds a day. The 30-minute cartoon caper, in which Wallace and his tetchy dog Gromit fight crime, took ten months to film, at a cost of £1.3 million. It will be shown again on April 5 on BBC1.

Park himself had a close shave with a policeman on Monday night. He decided to drive to the Oscars in a red motorcycle and sidcar, like the one driven by Wallace and Gromit. He was pulled over and cautioned for not wearing a helmet.

The best documentary-feature prize went to the BBC's *Anne Frank Remembered*, a history of the young Jewish diarist who died in Belsen, including interviews with those who knew the Frank family. The film, to be screened again on April 8 on BBC2, was written, directed and produced by Jon Blair. Collecting his prize, Blair was accompanied to the platform by Miep Gies, who had kept the Franks alive as they hid from the Nazis in an Amsterdam attic, and who, he explained, had found Anne's diary after the family was rounded up. "Without her, Anne Frank's story might never have been told," he told the audience.

British animators scored further success, with the Oscar for Best Visual Effects going to Jim Henson's Creature Shop in Camden Town, for creating the talking farmyard animals in *Babe*. Neil Scanlan collected the award on behalf of the company. "Animatronics" animals that speak like humans included a piglet hero, a duck, cat and a sheepdog.

Other Britons celebrating yesterday included Michael Kuhn, president of Polygram



Emma Thompson acknowledges the applause

Filmed Entertainment, which had many Oscar successes: Kevin Spacey was named Best Supporting Actor for *The Usual Suspects* - co-produced by the British producer Robert Jones; and Christopher McCausie won best screenplay (written directly for the screen) for that film. Susan Sarandon was named Best Actress for *Dead Man Walking*.

James Acheson, another Briton, won his third Oscar, being named the Best Cos-

tume Designer for *Restoration*. He won his first Academy Award in 1987 for *The Last Emperor* and his second a year later for *Dangerous Liaisons*.

Wife Stevenson, director of the British Film Institute, said: "Our film industry is alive and well in Hollywood. What we need is to bring back to the UK all that skill and expertise."

Nigella Lawson, page 17  
Leading article, page 19

## North and South will reap rewards

By DALYA ALBERGE

A CLUTCH of Oscars for two films are expected to boost tourism in northern and southern Britain this year. Scotland will reap the rewards for the success of *Braveheart* and Hampshire, the "home" county of Jane Austen, for *Sense and Sensibility*.

*Braveheart*, directed by and starring Mel Gibson, picked up five Academy Awards. The savage epic of the 13th-century Scottish patriot William Wallace was largely filmed in Ireland, although parts were shot in Glen Nevis and Fort William.

The producers were wooed to Ireland by advantageous tax concessions for film-makers and the need to escape Highland midges and the unpredictable weather.

Derek Reid, chief executive of the Scottish Tourist Board, said: "If there had been an Oscar for Best Supporting Country, I'm sure Scotland would have picked it up."

Jane Austen spent most of her life in Hampshire and the county's Jane Austen museum at Chawton has already seen an increase in visitors in the wake of the success of the BBC Television version of *Pride and Prejudice*.

"We are absolutely delighted and thrilled about the Oscar," said Frances Fee, Hampshire County Council's marketing and promotions manager, referring to Emma Thompson's award for best adapted screenplay.

"It was terrific that Emma Thompson referred to Winchester Cathedral in her acceptance speech and gave us a plug."

The county today launches a free "Jane Austen Country" tourism booklet at the British Travel Trade Fair in Birmingham. It details the novelist's links with Hampshire and the museum, which was the home where she wrote many of her novels.

### AND THE WINNERS WERE

**Picture:** *Braveheart*, Actor: Nicolas Cage, *Leaving Las Vegas*, Actress: Susan Sarandon, *Dead Man Walking*, Supporting actor: Kevin Spacey, *The Usual Suspects*, Supporting actress: Mira Sorvino, *Hefty Actress*: Director: Mel Gibson, *Braveheart* Foreign Film: *Antonia's Line*, The Netherlands, Screenplay (written directly for the screen): Christopher McQuarrie, *The Usual Suspects*, Screenplay (based on material previously produced or published): Emma Thompson, *Sense and Sensibility*, Art directors: Eugenio Zanolli, *Restoration*, Cinematography: John Toll, *Braveheart* Sound: Rick Dior, Steve Padison, Scott Millar, David MacMillan, *Apocalypse Now*, *Sense and Sensibility*, Original musical or comedy score: Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz,

**Pocahontas** Original dramatic score: Luis Bacalov, *The Postman* *if Postman*, Original score: Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz, *Colors of the Wind* from *Pocahontas*, Costumes: James Acheson, *Restoration* Documentary feature: *Anne Frank Remembered* Documentary (short subject): *One Survivor Remembers* Film editing: Mike Hill, Dan Hanley, *Apocalypse Now* Make-up: Peter Frampton, Paul Pattison, Lois Burwell, *Braveheart* Animated short film: *A Close Shave* Live action short film: *Liebesman in Love* Visual effects: Scott E. Anderson, Charles Gibson, Neal Scanlan, John Cox, Daba Gordon E. Sawyer awards: Donald C. Rogers, for sound technology, Honorary award: Kirk Douglas, Honorary award: Chuck Jones, animator, Special achievement award: John Lasseter, *Toy Story*

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## Colourful actors win few plaudits for dress sense

FROM QUENTIN LETTS  
IN NEW YORK

HOLLYWOOD men shunned the time-honoured black bow tie, white shirt and dinner jacket requested for the 68th Academy Awards ceremony, choosing instead an array of casual, collarless confections.

Jim Carrey, the \$22 million-a-film comic actor, wore a dark full-length underfaker's necktie. Robin Williams, presenting, opted for an artsy, stiff-angled ribbon sculpture around his neck, while Steven Spielberg walked on stage in black shirt, black tie and black jacket of differing shades. He looked terrible.

Steven Seagal, announcing an award, wore a black vest under his black jacket and a red sapphire and gold "meditation" ring. One thought of a nightclub bouncer.

Equally unconventional were Oscar winners such as the *Apollo 13* editor who wore a round brooch under his Adam's apple, the sound directors from *Braveheart* who both appeared to have forgotten to affix collars as well as ties to their dress shirts, and the sound team from *Apollo 13* who managed one tie among four.

Will Smith, the co-presentor, wore a wide-lapelled casual jacket over a billowing silk shirt sans tie. Jeremy



Gibson: teamed black tie with tartan waistcoat

Iron's one-time epitome of Old World chic, went for the look favoured by bond traders at City functions in the Eighties: horrid gold waistcoat and (ugh) a butterfly collar.

Mel Gibson was another in the patterned waistcoat brigade - inevitably - of tartan. Nor could one look for reassurance to the orchestra pit where Tim Scott, the conductor, was bare-necked.

It was left to the old guard to remind us of how good black tie can look. Martin Landau, Richard Dreyfuss and John Travolta, traditionally attired, were the smartest men in the room.

## Cadbury agrees £10m Street deal

By ALEXANDRA FRIBAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CORONATION STREET is to be sponsored by the chocolate firm Cadbury in a £10 million deal. Cadbury's name will appear in the opening and closing credits of the programme and the company will have the right to attach the *Coronation Street* name to its products in special promotions.

British television's biggest sponsorship deal is timed for the autumn to coincide with the introduction of a fourth weekly episode of *Coronation Street*. Andrea Wonfor, joint managing director of Granada Television, which makes the programme, said that there would be no gratuitous close-ups of

Cadbury products in the Street's store, the Kabin.

*Coronation Street*, first broadcast in 1960, is regularly watched by 18 million viewers. Despite its obvious attraction to advertisers, it has taken nearly 18 months for Granada to agree a sponsor. Previously it had seemed close to deals with Pedigree Petfoods and with Allied Domecq, which makes Tetley tea, Tetley beer, Pedro Domecq sherry and Dunkin' Donuts.

The previous biggest sponsorship was Diet Coke's £4 million deal to sponsor ITV film premieres.

Media, page 23  
Television, page 47

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Contamination scare spreads to gelatine, biscuits, fish and chips, cosmetics and medicines

# Food firms try to cut all sources of British beef

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND ROBIN YOUNG

**CONSUMERS**

FOOD manufacturers were considering dropping British beef from a wide range of products last night as consumer concern grew over the mixed messages coming from the Government and the European Union.

Customer service departments of shops were bombarded yesterday by record numbers of telephone calls from customers. Birds Eye Wall's is expected to become the latest company to ban British beef from its pre-packed food. Customers telephoning the company helpline were assured that deliveries would be halted by the end of the week.

The Vegetarian Society said it was handling more than 400 telephone inquiries a day. Chris Olivanti, the information manager, said: "The difficulty of avoiding beef fats and extracts means that choosing products carrying the 'suitable for vegetarians' symbols is the only quick way of ensuring you do not eat beef. It saves having to trawl through the fine print."

Asda and Tesco have offered a list of foods that do not contain British beef by-products. Tesco will differentiate between its Irish and British beef products for the first time. Sainsbury's announced yesterday that it would label all

foods containing beef or beef derivatives.

CPC, the manufacturer of Bovril and Knorr products, is considering using "no British beef" signs on its labels, and British beef may be dropped from Oxo cubes for the first time. Even fish and chips are not immune from the beef threat, as many shops use beef lard for frying.

United Biscuits, whose brand names include McVitie's and KP, said it was considering ways to keep British beef out of its foods. The company exports 25 per cent of its products.

Neslé said that all its confectionery was imported from Germany and France but a small proportion of chilled desserts contained gelatine. "They will be affected. We are very concerned by the European Union move," a spokesman said.

Boots confirmed that beef was contained in a small number of its cosmetics and medicine. But the company declined to name the products or the source of the beef. Beef is also involved in the manufacturing process of Benlylin expectorant cough medicine. Max Factor was considering whether to continue the use of beef tallow in its lipstick range.

An emergency board meet-

ing was held yesterday at Seven Seas Health Care, the market leader in vitamin supplement capsules. Alan Clements, the commercial director, said: "The gelatine used in all Seven Seas products does not derive from British beef or beef by-products. If the EU ban includes our products, that would be a travesty. The gelatine comes from German beef, is of pharmaceutical grade and much better than that used in confectionery."

Roger Jones of Croda Colloids, a leading gelatine manufacturer, said yesterday that there was no substitute for gelatine as a gelling agent, emulsifier and stabiliser. Most gelatine used in confectionery is made from pigskin, but is often blended with gelatine from beef bones and hides. "It is impossible to guarantee that a gelatine does not contain anything derived from British beef, because there is a world trade in the raw materials of beef bones

and cow hides. It follows that some of the gelatine manufactured in this country is made with imported materials."

Marks & Spencer confirmed that sales of beef products were down sharply. A spokeswoman said: "We have detected a switch to other animal protein, such as poultry, lamb and pork."

Tesco's growing export business, mainly in Cyprus and the Middle East, was likely to be affected. "We will obviously have to take stock of what is happening and see how it is going to affect us, but clearly it will have an impact."

Sales of venison have soared. Brecon Court Deer Farm at Llansoy, near Chepstow, Gwent, sold out last night for the first time in its seven-year history. Venison steaks sell at £6.20 a pound.

Barbara McElney, the owner of the 180-acre farm, said: "We have had faxes for mail-order supplies from all over the country. There is not a steak left in the shop."

**WHAT'S IN YOUR SHOPPING BASKET**

NO BEEF CONTENT	PRODUCTS WITH BRITISH BEEF CONTENT	PRODUCTS WITH OVERSEAS BEEF CONTENT
Bread with vegetable fat	Basset's Liquorice Absorbents	Rowntree's wine gums and fruit pastilles
Bisto powder	McVitie's Digestives; Home	Seven Seas vitamin supplement capsules
Marmite	Wheat	Bisto turkey and chicken gravy granules
Yeast extracts	Bread with lard or animal fat	Bovril; Knorr stock cubes
Tinned Heinz pork sausages and beans	Heinz soups	Birds Eye roast beef and gravy
Self-raising and plain flour	Callard & Bowser soups	acid steak and kidney pie
Campbell's mealball products	Campbell's cornball soup	Walls ice cream
Gineters sausage rolls	Beefburgers;	Cheese
Walls pork sausages	Gineters Cornish pasties	Floated fruit mixes
McCain pizzas	Birds Eye chilli con carne, pre-packed shepherd's pie, spaghetti bolognese and frozen sausage and mash	Heinz and Farley baby foods
Waller's crisps including the beef and onion variety	Heinz chilled desserts	Cadbury's chocolate fingers
McVitie's ginger cakes	Most pork sausages	Very low fat yoghurts
Tinned vegetables	Bisto Best gravy granules	Flodan Food pre-packed dinners
Custard powder	Oxo cubes	Wine lined with gelatine
Linda McCartney's product range including pies and sausage	Fry Borden meat pies	Turkish Delight
Muesli	Rowntree's jelly	Marshmallows
Butter	Sainsbury's gravy granules	Many low-fat spreads
Wholewheat pasta	Frozen cakes using lard	Cheating gum
Kellogg's Frosties and Rice Krispies	Sweet mince pie	Thickset marmalade
Quaker Cereals	Christmas pudding	Sainsbury's chicken stew with dumplings
Puff Wheat biscuits	Pork pie	Pâté
Full-fat yoghurts	Ginger nut biscuits	Boots chicken casserole
Body Shop lipsticks	Tesco seafood cocktail	Frankfurters
Vegetarian labelled cheeses	Food items	Salsal
Cadbury's Tita	Fruit flavoured gums	Heinz sandwich fillers
Unflavoured fruit juice	Low-sugar Polo mints	Pazo stuffing mix
Coca-Cola	Dried fruit	Borden's Royal Game soup
Fox's vegetarian-approved biscuits	Snowcrest vegetarian jellies	Canned ravioli
Low-sugar Polo mints	Rice	Dumpling mix
Dried fruit	Anchovy paste	French fries
Snowcrest vegetarian jellies	Royal Jelly	Tinned sponge puddings
Rice	Horsey	
Anchovy paste	Caviar	
Royal Jelly	Pasta	
Horsey	Tesco sausage rolls; healthy eating coleslaw	
Caviar		
Pasta		
Tesco sausage rolls; healthy eating coleslaw		

## Pork and poultry in the clear

**EXPERIMENTS**

PORK and chicken are unlikely to be affected by the BSE scare, experiments at the Central Veterinary Laboratory have shown (Nigel Hawkes writes).

While the symptoms of BSE can be induced in pigs by injecting material from infected cows into their brains, feeding them the same material does not cause the disease.

The same experiments have been carried out with chickens, with even more clear-cut results. They could not be infected with BSE either by feeding or injection.

Sheep could be more of a potential problem. While scrapie has been present in sheep for at least 200 years, there is no evidence that it can cross to man. But sheep fed BSE-contaminated material do develop the disease.

This opens up the possibility that BSE-infected sheep could be more of a threat than those with scrapie, but there is no evidence of this happening.

## France says mass slaughter may be only option

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

**EUROPE**

BRITAIN should slaughter its entire cattle herd if questions persist on the danger posed to humans by BSE, the French Agriculture Minister said yesterday.

"If it is a question of public health, then why not?" Philippe Vasseur told *La Tribune* newspaper, adding that France was anxious to help solve the crisis and called for European solidarity to aid the British beef industry. He accepted that British farmers would have to be paid compensation.

M Vasseur's comments were the latest effort by the French Government to convince the public that BSE is almost entirely a British phenomenon and that beef produced in France is quite safe. On Monday the French authorities slaughtered a herd of cattle in Brinany after one was found to be infected with BSE.

France has introduced a system to enable consumers to distinguish imported meat from home-produced beef. French meat will carry a red, white and blue label with the initials VF, standing for "Viande Française" — a somewhat unhappy choice since the initials VF might also stand for "vache folle" or mad cow.

**IRELAND**  
Irish police launched a massive security operation yesterday along the border to prevent farmers in Northern Ireland from smuggling cattle into the Republic to beat the ban on British beef. Extra

officers were drafted into border areas amid fears that smuggling could harm the reputation of the Republic's beef industry which is worth £5 billion.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, rejected calls from farmers in Northern Ireland to treat their beef separately from beef on mainland Britain.

**GERMANY**  
A woman showing the symptoms of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease worked in a Bavarian restaurant where she often handled cow brains, a doctor said yesterday.

Bastian Conrad, a Munich neurologist treating the 36-year-old woman, said she had lost consciousness and was dying. She was showing CJD symptoms but he could not make a complete diagnosis until after her death.

**PORTUGAL**  
Thirty six reported cases of BSE have been exclusively among cattle imported from Britain, officials said yesterday.

Portuguese farmers are reluctant to undertake inspections or reveal cases because the Government does not pay compensation for the slaughter of infected animals.

**ITALY**  
Meat importers said they would use other European suppliers in place of British beef. McDonald's Italia issued a statement saying it used only Spanish beef.

## A realistic guide to avoiding risk

IN 1951, when a young officer in a Scottish territorial regiment, I was taken back to tea by my squadron leader. He strode through the nursery where his young family were having tea, turned to me and said: "We won't drink that — kid's drink." We finished a bottle of brandy in his study.

There has always been a macho component to choosing food. Sitting in a West End restaurant this week it was interesting to guess which diner was the roast beef and who would opt for the safety of fish, noodles and seaweed. My squadron leader would have been proud to see how many men were not frightened by a prion and defied this infective agent by ordering beef.

Ordering a totally safe, beef-free dish is not easy. The soup with dumplings might have looked safe but the best dumplings are made from beef suet, and who can be certain that beef extracts have not been added to the soup?

er oil and multi-vitamins, not to mention the other nostrums wrapped in capsules of gelatine whose origin is unknown.

To be 100 per cent certain that in future no transmissible spongiform encephalopathy will get the chance to attack your grey cells, you would have to become vegetarian, eat organically grown fresh vegetables, eschew fish unless cooked in plain vegetable oil, renounce pastry, biscuits, cakes unless home-made and avoid taking capsules or having a sweet pastille with coffee. We must all have eaten products made from beef butchered before precautions against BSE were introduced.

I will continue to avoid composite beef dishes, sausages and pies and similar food and will not buy beef until the results of the present research are known. But I certainly would not bother about the small amounts in vitamin capsules or Norfink dump-capsules, nor would I recommend that my patients did.

DR THOMAS



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Mock orange seed

### Seeds of mortality sow fear on island

By Nick Nuttall  
Environment Correspondent

AN ALIEN tree brought to the Caribbean by Victorian botanists is rampaging through Jamaica's Blue Mountains, threatening scores of rare species and the country's coffee plants.

Scientists from the University of Wales, Bangor, and the West Indies, said yesterday that finding a way of curbing the mock orange was a race against time. The Blue Mountains are home to more than 200 rare plants of which 75 are unique to Jamaica. Dr Devi Prasad, from the University of the West Indies, Kingston, said he feared many of these will be lost if the tree, *Pittosporum undulatum*, is allowed to spread unchecked.

The tree has such a dense crown that it is blotting out sunlight, killing plants which stop soil being washed away during heavy rainfall.

Details of the threat will emerge tomorrow when the scientists get £43,000 under the Darwin Initiative, a British Department of the Environment programme set up after the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 to conserve wildlife in the developing world.

The mock orange was brought to Jamaica in the 19th century from Australia by Kew Gardens, but spread partly due to local birds adapting to eat the fruit and then spreading seeds.

## Communist regime demands support for handpicked councillors

# Hong Kong's civil servants told by China to toe line

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHINA has put more pressure on Hong Kong by telling senior civil servants here yesterday that they must demonstrate their support for the Peking-appointed Provisional Legislative Council, which will be established before the 1997 takeover.

This places civil servants in the position of having to support a policy opposed by their present masters, the Hong Kong Government.

In recent days, China's appointed 150-member Preliminary Working Committee — which is establishing the next government apparatus — has announced the abolition of the present wholly elected Legis-

lative Council in 1997, and denied membership in the provisional body to any democrats currently serving.

In Peking, Chen Ziyang, deputy director of the State Council's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, said that senior civil servants would have to show their support for the provisional council, but did not say whether civil servants could continue in office if they failed to do so. Because the provisional council will be operating months before the takeover, there will be, in effect, two law-making bodies sharing some members, although the laws enacted or abolished by the

new council would not come into effect until after 1997.

A member of the Preparatory Committee, Eric Lee, who serves on the present council, said he objected to the Peking proposal because civil servants must be neutral. Anson Chan, the Chief Secretary, gave a warning against "any action that in any way erodes confidence or makes civil servants feel uncomfortable about the transition and about life after 1997".

Cheung Man-kwong, a member of the Democratic Party which holds the largest number of seats of any party in the council, said: "If this is really the position of the Chinese Government, I think they better take Hong Kong back immediately — no need to wait until 1997".

Patten attacked: Sir Anthony Jolliffe, a former Lord Mayor of London, called himself "a champion for China", attacking British and American stances towards Peking and calling Chris Patten "a failure", the newspaper *Eastern Express* reported in Hong Kong. Sir Anthony, a businessman trading with China, also defended China's stance on Taiwan. Attacking Mr Patten, he said: "Britain should send a man of stature to Hong Kong rather than a former MP who has lost his seat in an election. Sending a failure to Hong Kong to negotiate with the Chinese is an insult to the Chinese people." (AFP)

## Peking rules out a Taiwan summit

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

THE conciliatory mood in China-Taiwan relations after Taipei's presidential election seems to have been short-lived, with Peking yesterday ruling out a bilateral summit.

The United States carrier, *USS Independence*, was sailing back to her base in Japan, leaving only her sister ship, *USS Nimitz*, on patrol off eastern Taiwan. The *Nimitz's* presence is being reviewed every day.

Yesterday Shen Guofang, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, repeated Peking's standard preconditions before any high-level meeting can take place between President Jiang Zemin of China and Lee Teng-hui, his Taiwanese counterpart, who savoured an electoral triumph on Saturday despite China's attempts to intimidate voters.

"I think this [summit] is not on our agenda, because we would still like to see whether the Taiwan side will stop its activities to create two Chinas or one China, one Taiwan," Mr Shen said, referring to Taipei's push for indepen-

dence. "If they cease such activities, then relations between the two sides can be relaxed and after that we can discuss anything else." Taiwan, he stated, could enjoy unofficial trade and cultural ties with the rest of the world, but could not seek diplomatic recognition or membership of the United Nations. Peking regards Taiwan as a renegade province.

Mr Shen said that although the "door is open" to Taiwan, Taipei was continuing its activities to "split the motherland". He also accused a "certain country", clearly America, of interfering in China's internal affairs by selling weapons to Taiwan.

"The door is closed by them [Taiwan]," Mr Shen noted. But he said if Taiwan stopped its "splitting" acts, and foreign forces ceased interfering in China's internal affairs, "we will be waiting by the door". Mr Shen, however, did not resume the personal vitriolic attacks on President Lee — the only post-election sign yesterday of a softer Peking stance.



Thousands queue in Hong Kong for the special passport giving them visa-free access to Britain and many other countries as the deadline draws near

## Passport fever in colony

By Jonathan Mirsky

WITH 8,000 people applying daily for the British Dependent Territories Citizens' Passport, the Hong Kong Government has been forced to open special facilities to cope with the rush.

The deadline for applications is at the end of this month. A spokesman for the Immigration Department said yesterday that up to 80,000 people may apply before then.

There are 2.2 million people among the colony's six million population who are eligi-

ble for the passport, which gives the holder visa-free access to many countries, including Britain. The measure was announced by John Major during his recent visit to the colony. The passport does not, however, give the holder residential rights in Britain.

Most Hong Kong visitors only spend a few weeks or up to two months in Britain. Few remain behind illegally. Those who want to emigrate prefer to go to Canada, the United States and Australia.

The question nagging Hong Kong citizens who have established residence abroad

is whether they will be granted Chinese citizenship if they return here after China gains sovereignty over the colony in 1997. This week Peking announced that the right would be extended to them if they refused to claim consular protection from those countries for which they hold a second passport. But many are objecting to this caveat because of uncertainty about the nature of Communist rule.

About 500,000 Hong Kong citizens, who hold foreign passports, have returned here after establishing their right to abode abroad.

## Kashmir mosque siege ends

Delhi: Fifteen separatists, who took refuge in Kashmir's holiest Muslim shrine on Sunday after a gun battle with police, left peacefully last night as clerics vouched for the safety of hair from the Prophet Muhammad's beard kept in a vault (Christopher Thomas writes).

The Prophet's hair once disappeared from the Hazratbal mosque on the shore of Dal Lake in Srinagar, capital of the Kashmir Valley, prompting riots until it was found and declared authentic.

More than two dozen gunmen from the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front took refuge there. The remaining gunmen were also surrendering, police said.

## Grenade attack

Lucknow, India: Seven people were killed and about 100 injured when grenades were hurled at a low-caste politician addressing an election rally in Uttar Pradesh. The politician was among the dead. (Reuters)

## Rescuers die

Johannesburg: Ten rescuers trying to save a miner were killed in a rockfall at Tshikondeni colliery in Northern Province, the mine company Iscor said. The miner's fate is unknown. (Reuters)

## Mafia sentence

Rome: A former leader of Italy's defunct Socialist Party, Giacomo Mancini, 79, has been found guilty of links to the Calabrian Mafia and sentenced to 3½ years' jail in Palmi. (Reuters)

## 'Times' award

Tania Branigan, a student at King's College, Cambridge, has won The Times Royal Mail Young Foreign Correspondent of the Year Competition. She receives £2,000 and two tickets to Thailand.

## Wedded to work

Lake Mary, Florida: Seven Postal Service workers here who cannot remove their wedding rings have been told to have them cut off or lose their jobs under safety rules banning jewellery at work. (AFP)

## Sierra Leone rebels in peace talks

SIERRA LEONE'S rebel leader, Corporal Foday Sankoh, emerged after five years in the shadows yesterday to meet government mediators in the Ivory Coast (Sam Kiley writes).

The talks were aimed at hammering out a peace deal before the country's newly-elected civilian Government takes over this week. Corporal Sankoh left his bush hideout to be flown to the talks by

Red Cross helicopter, accompanied by the Ivory Coast's Foreign Minister as a guarantee of his safety.

The first meeting between Corporal Sankoh and Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, the outgoing Sierra Leone head of state, concentrated on what the rebel soldiers in the Revolutionary Democratic Front will do if a peace deal is reached. At least 10,000 people have been killed and 2

million displaced in Sierra Leone's civil war. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, a Muslim lawyer, is expected to take over as the country's President on Friday.

Women killed: A number of women acting as intermediaries between the rebels and authorities were killed and 25 were injured when a rebel soldier opened fire because they had failed to gain government guarantees. (AFP)

## Battle for tourists leaves ugly scars on Victoria Falls

FROM MICHAEL HARTNACK IN LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA

HEEDING warnings that the tourist influx is wrecking the natural beauty of the world's mightiest waterfall, experts were meeting in the Zambian border town of Livingstone to try to agree a two-nation conservation plan.

Vicious rivalry over tourist dollars last September led to shots being fired from the Zambian bank on a Zimbabwean launch, plying the island-strewn reaches of the Zambezi river above the Victoria Falls. More than half a million visitors each year follow in the footsteps of the Scottish explorer David Livingstone, who saw the falls in 1856 and named them for Britain's reigning monarch. "Sights so lovely," he wrote, "must have been viewed by angels in their flight."

Nowadays the thunder of the 300ft-high and mile-wide waters could be drowned by the noise of spotter planes, helicopters and boats of sight-seers, while Zambia's Eastern Cataract is dry most of the year because of a hydro-electric plant upstream. As a result, Zambia's section of the falls' rainforest, declared a

world heritage site by the United Nations, is dying.

Bungee-jumpers leap from the historic suspension bridge, built at Cecil Rhodes's behest at the turn of the century. The whitewater rafting course in the downstream gorges will be drowned by the Batoka dam by 2006. Its waters may also be contaminated by cholera. The flintlock musket Livingstone carried to fight off Arab slave traders might come in equally handy today to deal with muggers from among the estimated 50,000 unemployed in this economically stagnant town named in his honour.

A detailed environmental impact assessment, prepared for the Governments of Zimbabwe and Zambia by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, urges the adoption of a single strategy and a two-nation trust, which could see a threefold growth in tourism by 2005, say the authors. Last year Zimbabwe earned £72 million from tourism, a vital boost for President Mugabe's economy.

The assessment warns delegates of Zambia's growing envy at Zimbabwe's success in attracting tourist development, allegedly at the expense of shared natural resources. "The marked difference between each side is a cause for concern because it may get in the way of rational planning and management." The experts also protest against the construction of a bridge over the Zambezi in an unspoilt wilderness area by an influential consortium, including the Zimbabwean Vice-President Joshua Nkomo.

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# Nostalgic Dole pays tribute to values of Kansas heartland

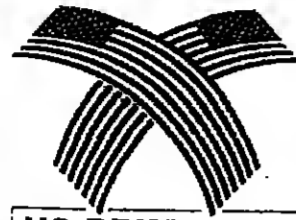
FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN RUSSELL, KANSAS

BENEATH vast skies on the great plain of the American heartland lies Russell, Kansas, a speck of 4,800 people that is 1,500 miles from either coast, 250 miles from the nearest metropolis and a throwback to an earlier, more innocent, age for which modern America feels so nostalgic.

Here the air is clean, the climate bracing, the townsfolk all know each other, greet strangers warmly and flock to church on Sunday. Wheat, cattle and a little local oil provide work for all who want it, and while wages are low \$30,000 (£19,000) buys a decent home on a tidy street. Few bother to lock their doors, the only recent offence of note being the draining of the town's water tower by some prankster.

It is the sort of thoroughly wholesome place that every presidential candidate would love to say he came from, and Bob Dole actually does. As he was cementing the Republican nomination in yesterday's California primary, the 72-year-old senator made an emotional return to his birthplace to show America "the real Bob Dole" behind that dour image, to counter the charge that he is a creature of Washington, and to make Russell work for him like Hope, Arkansas, did for President Clinton in 1992.

He was the "heartland" candidate, he told a rally in the



US PRIMARIES

high school gym where the whole town gathered to give him a hero's welcome and he twice had to choke back tears. "Anyone who wants to understand me must first understand the community of Russell." He said the town had shaped and steered him. It had taught him discipline, integrity, hard work and self-reliance. He had his limitations as a candidate but "it was here I learnt that doing is better than talking ... it was here that I learnt not to wear my heart on my sleeve. It was here

Washington: Edmund Muskie, a lawyer and former senator and Secretary of State, died, aged 81, early yesterday after a heart attack. He had had triple bypass surgery at Georgetown University Medical Centre after the attack last Thursday. Mr Muskie served as Secretary of State under President Carter in 1980 and 1981. (Reuter) Obituary, page 21

I learnt to feel deeply for my country and my family, and that some things are worth living for and some worth sacrificing for. "Braving an icy prairie wind he laid flowers at his parents' grave, then visited the modest Maple Street bungalow where his family weathers the terrible dust storms of the 1930s and lived for two years in the basement during the Depression so the house upstairs could be let.

With his two sisters, who still live in Russell, Mr Dole crossed the lines of the once great Union Pacific railway to the grain silos where his father laboured, then headed up Main Street. He passed the shop where his mother gave sewing lessons to help to make ends meet. He greeted Alice Mills, his 96-year-old former mathematics teacher, who complained that he was looking thin. He lingered at the old Dawson's Drugstore where he worked as a schoolboy.

Far more importantly it was to Dawsons that the people of Russell came to contribute \$1,800 (£1,200) for the operations of the young Bob Dole needed after returning in a body cast from the Second World War. He spent 39 months fighting for his life and overcoming his disabilities before law school.



Bob Dole brandishes a root beer mug given to him at a rally in Russell yesterday. He sold root beer as a schoolboy

strengthen his shattered right arm. His last stop was at the courthouse where he began a political career as county attorney that would take him to Washington the year Dwight Eisenhower, America's only Kansas President, retired. On the same courthouse lawn, Mr Dole launched his 1976 vice-presidential campaign, broke down as he recalled how the people of Russell had helped him and was rescued by

President Ford who rose to lead the crowd in applause. It is a compelling life story of a sort now required for presidential candidates, but has the added virtue of veracity. Contrast it with the magically named Hope as the place that shaped President Clinton but who, in fact, spent his formative years in the far less savoury Arkansas gambling resort of Hot Springs. It is also a story the natural-

ly reticent Mr Dole has only begun to exploit in this, his third and final presidential bid. Given America's present angry mood, even his consummate Washington insider of 36 years has realised the necessity of highlighting his Kansas roots.

Russell hardly objects to becoming a campaign prop for its most famous son. The exploitation is mutual. A large billboard directs travellers on the nearby highway to "Bob Dole" country. The town's shops are selling Bob Dole T-shirts, mugs and baseball caps. Its Mayor, Neal Farmer, is already dreaming of a presidential library. "It's hard to tell which was the biggest gusher," said Jim Joule, editor of the *Russell Daily News*. "The discovery of oil in 1923 or Dole becoming a politician. Both things have been very beneficial to Russell."

# Unions pledge \$35m for Clinton war-chest

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

SWALLOWING their past misgivings, America's biggest federation of trade unions has endorsed President Clinton for re-election and promised to help him with a huge campaign war-chest.

All but two of 78 unions, representing 13 million workers, gave their backing to Mr Clinton during a Washington conference of the American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organizations. The two exceptions, the Teamsters and San Francisco's Longshoremen, said they wanted more time to consider their decision.

The endorsement was greeted as a declaration of war by Republicans. They were upset that the unions will raise a fund of \$35 million (£23 million) by imposing a 15 cent monthly levy on members.

In this way, the Republicans claimed, the 40 per cent of union members who voted Republican in the last presidential election will be forced to contribute to Democratic coffers against their wishes. The Republicans filed complaints with the Federal Election Commission, accusing the union federation of breaking election laws that restrict the unions' use of workers' money.

The funds will go for radio and television commercials and a mobilisation drive targeted at 75 constituencies where Republican incumbents are considered vulnerable.

The federation endorsed Mr Clinton despite its fury three years ago over his enactment of the North American Free Trade Agreement, which the unions say has caused the loss of thousands of American jobs to Mexico. The unions recognise, though, that they have nowhere else to go in an election that pits Mr Clinton against Bob Dole.

Their aim is to retain the White House in Democratic hands and to win back Congress for the Democrats before the Republicans become too entrenched.

America's trade unions are promising a new solidarity and militancy, after years of decline, under the federation's abrasive new leader, John Sweeney. He delighted delegates by describing Newt Gingrich, House Speaker, and the Republican majority, as "Newty and the Blowfish".

□ Ankara: Hillary Clinton laid a wreath here at the tomb of Kemal Ataturk, the father of the Turkish republic, on the third day of a goodwill tour in Europe. She will make a speech in Istanbul tomorrow on women's and children's rights. (Reuter)

# British tourists tell of balloon crash in Rocky Mountains

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

BRITISH tourists in the Rocky Mountains yesterday described how they were nearly killed on a hot air balloon sightseeing trip when the craft struck a mountain ridge and caught fire. One man spoke of "panic as the flames licked up around us" and counted himself fortunate to be alive.

Nine passengers from Britain were in the basket of the balloon when it was caught by a cross wind and blown onto the ridge. One woman was seriously hurt. The gust caught the balloon as it was preparing to land on an 8,000ft-high plateau surrounded by peaks.

The impact caused the basket to topple over and the gas-fuelled heating equipment burst into flames. The basket, too, caught fire as it was being dragged along the top of a ridge for about 50 yards. As you can imagine, there was a bit of a panic as the flames

basket, others had to scramble for safety, before the flaming remains of the balloon flew high in to air. It was later retrieved 12 miles from the site of the crash.

The accident happened in good weather conditions near Colorado Springs, two hours' drive from the ski resort of Breckenridge where the 45-minute pleasure flight began and where many of the passengers were on holiday.

One of them, John McCulloch, of Edinburgh, said: "Suddenly the balloon lost height and, despite the efforts of the pilot, we bumped into the hillsides."

"The heater was knocked over and the basket caught fire. People, including myself, tumbled out as we were dragged along the top of a ridge for about 50 yards. As you can imagine, there was a bit of a panic as the flames



licked up around us. Fortunately the basket was on the ground. We didn't gain height again."

The basket was up-ended when it hit a rock or tree stump. "We were being bowled along but were unable to put the brakes on, as it were," Mr McCulloch said. He added: "By the time I got on my feet everybody had been thrown out. It was all over in a minute or two. A few people had their hair singed and a couple looked to have broken bones."

Margaret Lowday, 43, from London, was taken by helicopter to a hospital in Denver, the nearest big city, and was yesterday said to be in a serious condition. Three other people taken to a local hospital, Joanne Orton, 30, of Aylesstone, Leicestershire, Brian Kinghorn, 42, of Grey-

stoke, Cumbria, and Mr McCulloch, were held overnight and were yesterday resting in their hotel rooms.

Mr Kinghorn said: "All I can remember is the burners coming down in a flash of flame. The balloon really caught the ground and turned completely upside down." Mr McCulloch said that the pilot, Rick Lang, cut him free from a tangle of balloon equipment as the craft careered towards the edge of the ridge.

"I thought I had jumped out but could not understand why the balloon was trailing one along," said Mr McCulloch. "It kept lifting me and setting me back down. I couldn't get it off me." Mr Lang, whose company is called Mile High Adventures, was not seriously hurt in the crash. He could not be contacted yesterday.

Mr McCulloch, who said that he would be unlikely to take another balloon ride, discounted any suggestions that the basket was carrying too many people.

"It was a large basket and there was plenty of room. The balloon could easily lift our weight. It was just bad luck that we got into a cross wind. Balloon trips are a popular form of activity in and around the ski resorts of Colorado and Utah. Federal Aviation Administration officials are to investigate the crash.

# Grand Canyon flooded to repair human damage

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A DAWN roar yesterday heralded the opening of four valves to send billions of gallons of water gushing down the Grand Canyon in the hope of repairing some of the damage done to it by humans.

Bruce Babbitt, America's Interior Secretary, spoke of "a new beginning" as he pushed a button, cranked a lever and turned a wheel to open the first valve in the Glen Canyon Dam, which holds back the Colorado River.

Several dozen scientists monitored the experiment to reshape the 33-year-old dam's operations. Orlookers watched from 70ft above as the first 8ft-wide valve released a jet of green water that gushed out several hundred feet. By mid-morning the three other outlets had been opened.

Enough water to supply the whole of Los Angeles for seven months will flow down the canyon during the week-long operation.

The 120 billion gallons which will gush from the dam at the head of the canyon are designed to imitate natural seasonal flooding that used to replenish the canyon's beaches and restore its wild-life habitats.

Water still churns through the spectacular gash in the earth's crust, but whereas for millennia it was warm and

reddish brown — hence the Spanish name *Colorado* — it is now cold and clear.

The silt that used to give the river its colour now builds up behind the dam at the bottom of Lake Powell, while the lake's deep, still water cools steadily before being released through hydro-electric turbines.

The "new" Colorado has been steadily eroding the narrow beaches at the bottom of the canyon instead of renewing them.

Meanwhile, eddies and backwaters that used to support fish and waterfowl have been filled with debris since seasonal flooding stopped with the building of the dam in 1963.

Scientists working for the government agencies that run the Grand Canyon National Park and monitor its ecosystems hope the seven-day flood

will deposit 12 million tonnes of sand on the canyon's beaches. Flowing at an extra 45,000cu ft per second, however, the water could simply strip away what sand remains.

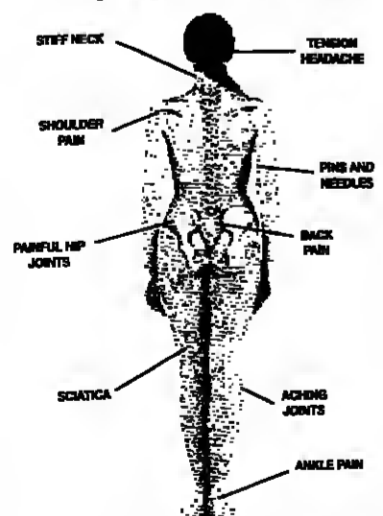
More than 100 observers "in boats and helicopters and hanging off the canyon walls" will try to ensure the experiment does more good than harm, an official said.

Campers and walkers should be in no danger because the water level will rise gradually, by no more than 10ft in all.

But electricity companies which buy power from the dam for six western states have accepted the attempt at reconciliation with nature reluctantly, at best. They regard it as a waste of water that could cost them \$100 million (£65 million) over the next ten years.

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# Montana Freemen are seized

BY QUENTIN LETTS

FEDERAL agents moved in on a white militia group in Montana, arresting two of its leaders and surrounding its remote ranch with vehicles.

The action against the "Freemen of Montana" comes after a year-long softly softly surveillance of the group by law enforcers who are anxious to avoid a repetition of the violent end to the siege in Waco, Texas.

The two ringleaders, LeRoy Schweitzer and Daniel Peterson, were seized near the far-flung farmhouse where the heavily-armed group has squatted for several months.

Negotiations are being conducted to bring in the rest of the militia without violence. Before this week's arrests there was a discreet but impressive build-up of government vehicles in the area.

The militia group, which includes nine fugitives, refuses to acknowledge the legitimacy of federal government and set up its own courts and laws in self-styled "Justus Township".

The two ringleaders are charged with advocating violence for political ends, and are being investigated for links to white supremacist groups.

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# Obstacles to Bosnia peace put election plan in peril

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE flight of Serbs from Sarajevo suburbs, the failure so far to release all prisoners of war, and deadlock over the extradition of suspected war criminals have led Western diplomats to give a warning that, unless the ceasefire in Bosnia-Herzegovina is stabilised, the elections planned for this autumn may be postponed or scrapped.

After the Moscow meeting of the Contact Group last weekend, Carl Bildt, the EU representative in Bosnia, has said that all reconstruction aid would stop if remaining prisoners were not released very soon. His warning came as the timetable for a return to democratic politics looks increasingly unrealistic, and talks on the registration and rights of voters are in danger of breaking down.

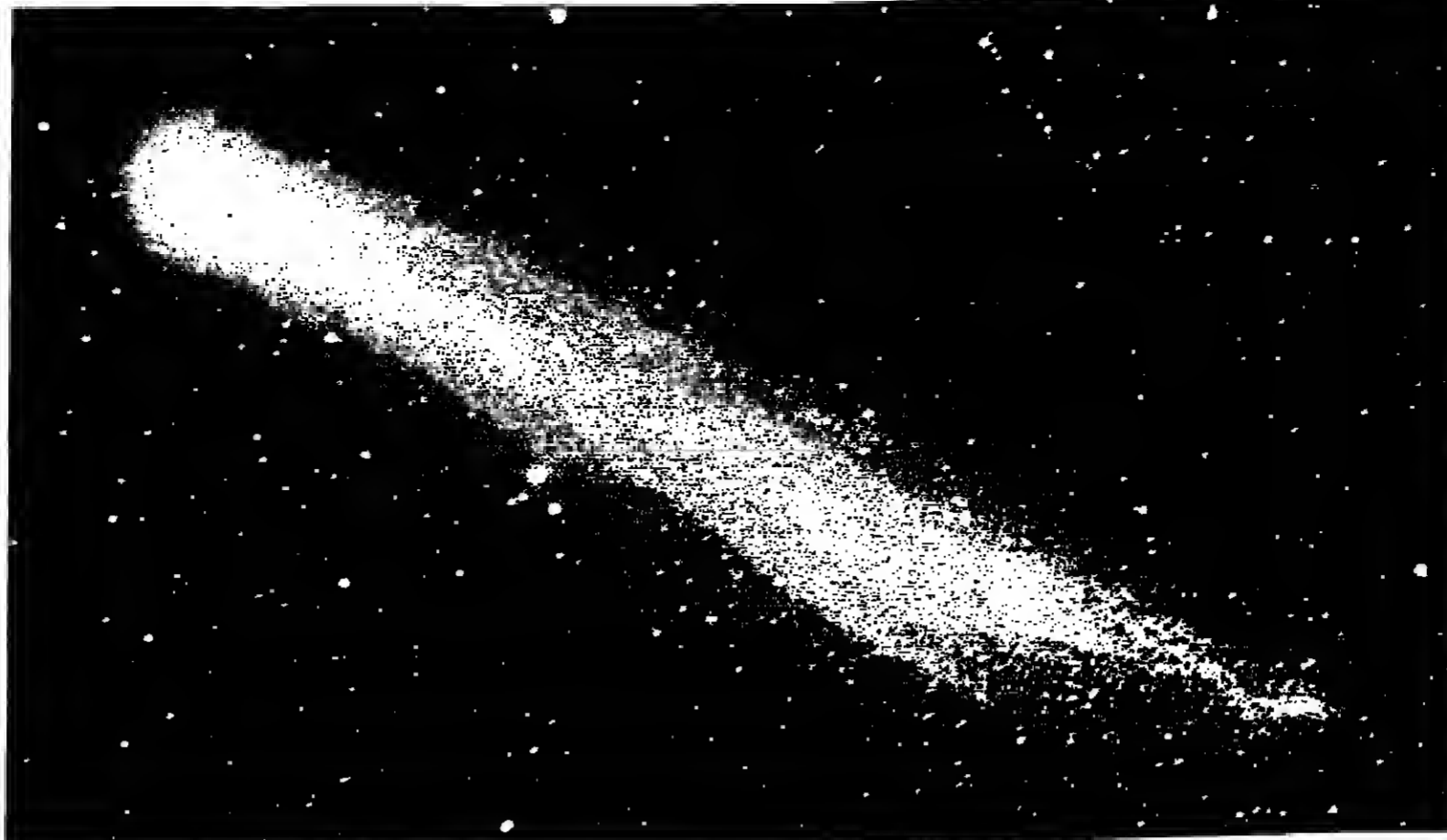
Diplomats at the Moscow meeting emphasised their determination to stand under the Dayton accords, but deadlock over their prosecution may make this hard to enforce. So far few countries have contributed to the estimated cost of \$2.6 billion for running the elections.

Ken Scott, the British deputy head of the OSCE mission, admits the obstacles are enormous and that there has been little co-operation from the parties. Given the difficulty of crossing ceasefire lines, a national election is probably impossible and candidates will have to stand in either the Serb or the Muslim-Croat enclaves.

If the OSCE decides the conditions for free elections do not exist, they will be postponed. If that happens, the Nato-led Implementation Force will be under strong pressure to stay, as there will be no other mechanism to enforce the Dayton accords. The Americans, however, have already indicated they will not remain beyond the one-year mandate.

Mr Hagner, a doctor who kept Vukovar hospital running during a 1991 siege told UN war crimes hearings yesterday that senior Serb officers ignored her pleas to stop the daily bombardment. Dr Vesna Bosanac was giving evidence against Mile Mirksic, Miroslav Radic and Veselin Slijepcevic, accused of killing 261 Croat men dragged from her hospital after Serb forces overran the town in November 1991.

"Whenever I speak about Vukovar, I never feel upset enough," Dr Bosanac said. Belgrade has refused to hand over the Serb officers. (Reuters)



Comet Hyakutake photographed with a 200mm lens in a 15-minute guided exposure from an observatory in Missouri

# Discoverer stays inside as comet sails by

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR



People queue in Moscow to watch the comet. The telescope's owner charged them 2,000 roubles each

"That is how I found the comet," British observers so far have been frustrated by cloudy skies, but hope to see the comet before it disappears back into the outer reaches of the solar system, not to return for 17,000 years.

Those who were able to see it on Sunday and Monday say that it was as bright as Sirius, the brightest star in the northern sky. Its tail of glowing gases is an estimated 62,000 miles long.

"There is something about the appearance of a comet," said Brian Marsden, associate director for planetary sciences at the Smithsonian-Harvard Centre for Astrophysics. "I suppose it is the fact that you can have this thing just for a little while and know it has come from a great distance."

Hyakutake is the brightest comet since Comet West in 1976. It is visible throughout the Northern Hemisphere. It is expected to fade slightly this week but may well flare brightly again later next month as it makes its closest approach to the Sun.

"Things like this spur people to look up beyond the surface of our tiny little planet here, where we live our tiny little lives running around in tiny little circles," said Alan MacRobert, an associate editor of *Sky and Telescope* magazine in Cambridge, Massachusetts, "and see something of the bigger, wider universe that is out there for us waiting to see if we only look up."

## Spain's leading terror suspect arrested on shopping trip

## Poll forces Yeltsin to halt Chechen battle

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

SPAIN'S most wanted man, Valentin Lasarte, 32, was being interrogated yesterday after being detained by police in the Basque region of northern Spain.

Señor Lasarte, whose picture features on 20,000 wanted posters around the country, was arrested after a tip-off from a member of the public who recognised him as he shopped at a hypermarket in the town of Oñartzun.

Police chased Señor Lasarte and a female companion to the town square and fired warning shots. Señor Lasarte, unarmed, threw himself to the ground and shouted his name before he was handcuffed.

He is accused of killing two senior Basque politicians, Gregorio Ordóñez, the conservative Popular Party candidate for Mayor of San Sebastián, was shot dead in January 1995 during the run-up to local elections. Fernando Múgica, a lawyer and main Socialist candidate in San Sebastián for the general election held three weeks ago, was shot dead last month.

Múgica's son, who witnessed the murder, recognised Señor Lasarte immediately. Señor Lasarte told him: "Next time it will be you."

The leading member of Eta, the Basque separatist organisation, will be interrogated until Saturday under special legislation approved by a top Madrid judge. He may be charged with several other killings.

Police hope that Señor Lasarte and Idoia Arrieta, the woman detained with him and a previously unidentified member of Eta, will lead them to other members of his group. Dozens of Basque police patrols fanned out from San Sebastián in the hope of breaking up the "Donosti Comando Unit".

Eta, whose acronym stands for Basque Homeland and Freedom, has killed more than 760 people since it began its campaign in 1968.

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A LONG and bloody offensive by Russian forces against Chechen rebels will draw to an end in the coming days, when President Yeltsin announces a new peace plan to halt the 15-month conflict in the breakaway republic.

According to General Pavel Grachev, the Russian Defence Minister, the military will halt its operations, characterised in recent weeks by brutal air and artillery attacks.

"Military actions alone cannot step up the process of resolving the situation in Chechnya," he said in Grozny, the capital of Chechnya. His remarks yesterday were the clearest sign yet about the contents of Mr Yeltsin's long-awaited peace plan, which the Russian leader will reveal in a "live" address this weekend.

A senior military source was quoted as saying that after the speech the army would begin pulling out of Chechnya.

The change in approach is linked to Russia's presidential poll on July 16. Mr Yeltsin has admitted that without peace in Chechnya his re-election hopes are doomed.

Osce, Mr Yeltsin ended his first official visit to Norway yesterday. Both countries agreed to combat nuclear waste pollution, but failed to resolve differences over Nato's expansion to the East. (Reuters)



Bildt gave warning of cut-off for Bosnian aid

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**Nicotine spray is approved in US for heavy smokers**

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A NICOTINE nasal spray was approved yesterday for heavy cigarette smokers in America who are trying to give up. It will go on sale later this year under the name Nicotrol NS and will require a doctor's prescription.

Smokers will be instructed to inhale one or two squirts in each nostril every hour, with never more than five doses an hour. Each dose will contain one milligram of nicotine, about one cigarette's worth. The pump bottle will contain 100 milligrams of nicotine solution and users will be warned that 40 milligrams taken at once can be lethal.

In giving approval, the US Food and Drug Administration indicated concern that some smokers might become addicted to snorting the spray as they were to cigarettes. One desperate woman in a clinical trial watered down her supply of spray to make it last longer before she eventually gave up and returned to cigarettes.

The FDA has asked the spray's developer, Pharmacia and Upjohn, to establish a plan with doctors to monitor any adverse effects. They must also endeavour to keep the spray out of the hands of teenagers under 18, who are not supposed to use it.

In tests, the spray's success rate was no better than that of nicotine gum or the patch. Studies of 730 smokers found that a quarter of those who received it gave up cigarettes for at least a year while only 13 per cent of those on a placebo managed to stop smoking.

Smokers' brains will absorb less nicotine from the spray than from cigarettes, according to Richard Hurt, director of the nicotine dependency centre at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. He explained that nicotine inhaled through cigarettes goes straight to the heart and is pumped to the brain in five heartbeats while Nicotrol circulates through the blood before reaching the heart and the brain.

The spray is being launched at a time when the US tobacco industry is under intense scrutiny by the Government amid allegations that tobacco executives lied to Congress in denying that nicotine was addictive.

President Clinton joined the fray this week, describing cigarettes as the number one health threat to young people.

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# 'Political' execution stokes unrest in Bahrain

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

FRESH unrest among Bahrain's Shia Muslim majority hit the crisis-ridden Gulf state yesterday as the first execution in two decades signalled a harsher crackdown on pro-democracy protests. The troubles erupted in December 1994, and are threatening stability in the region.

The unrest started after pro-government newspapers reported the execution by firing squad of Isa Qambar, 29. He was one of several Shias convicted of the murder last year of a police sergeant in one of the many impoverished Shia villages which ring the modern capital, Manama.

Members of Bahrain's various opposition groups described the execution as a political killing. They said it would spark more violence in a conflict that has already claimed 24 lives and prompted many Bahrain-based foreign companies to consider moving to the relative safety of Dubai.

The call for democratic reforms will be strengthened, said a statement from the London-based Bahrain Freedom Movement. "The murder of Isa Qambar is bound to fuel more unrest, despite all the measures of collective punishment. Bahrain now faces a bleaker future."

Within hours of the execution, security forces used tear-gas in villages and towns to disperse protesting Shia youths. All public telephone boxes have been cut off to prevent details of the unrest from being communicated abroad.

There have been helicopters flying over the villages south and east of Manama all day, indicating that there is serious unrest, said a British expatriate on the island, which has a population of 500,000.

Diplomats predicted more executions as part of the repression by the Emir, Sheikh Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifa.

The execution came days after the authorities announced tough new measures to quell the disturbances, which have made large parts of the island no-go areas for foreigners. The state is linked by a causeway to Saudi Arabia and is host to the American Fifth Fleet.

The demonstrators are demanding the return of the 1975 parliament which was dissolved by the al-Khalifas.

The 8,000 Britons and Americans who live in Bahrain have been given warnings by their embassies not to visit cafes, restaurants and other places likely to be bomb targets.

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Day three of our week-long guide to help you to check your child's progress through the national curriculum

# The science of success

Head teacher **Bridget Methuen** gives the lowdown on the topics 11-year-olds should be familiar with for this year's science tests

**P**erhaps it is the advent of league tables or the increasing number of practice papers on sale in the shops, but parents and children seem to be more anxious about this year's tests for 11-year-olds. Children are often aware of the concern of their parents and that they will do themselves, and the school, credit. Against this background of mild anxiety, they are confronted by additional problems in the science tests.

Since the advent of the national curriculum, science has had a much higher profile in primary schools, and concepts I was taught for O level I now teach to 10 and 11-year-olds. However, gone is the theoretical way of working; children are now encouraged to develop a scientific way of thinking.

They learn how to devise a fair test, interpret results analytically and draw logical conclusions from their results — all very different from the factual recall required by the test. In addition, the curriculum is often delivered spirally over a four-year cycle, so that each aspect is covered twice at different levels. This means that children may meet certain topics when they are seven, again at nine, but do not get tested on them until nearly 18 months later.

So, how can parents help? Firstly, they can stop getting worried. Every child will also be given a level of achievement by their teacher based on work done over the previous year. This has equal status with the test result and is presented alongside it.

Schools will be acclimatising children to the test formats and many do "practice runs", using previous years' papers. These develop the children's exam techniques and also help to remind them



Children at Snape Primary School practise the appliance of science as they prepare for the forthcoming tests

of work done in the previous years. General revision at home is a great help, but parents should be wary of inducing extra stress. Remember these are *not* GCSEs. All three strands of science tested will feature in both of the papers. The following is a brief outline of what is required.

### LIFE AND LIVING PROCESSES: BIOLOGY

Children are asked to know:

1. The characteristics of living things and should be able to categorise them using simple keys.
2. The major organ systems of the human body, their position and function. This may be linked to the effects of exercise, etc., to show an understanding of the processes involved.



### MATERIALS AND THEIR PROPERTIES: CHEMISTRY

Children are asked to:

1. Be able to group materials according to their properties.
2. Be able to relate these properties to their practical usage. For example: which materials are electrical conductors; why glass is used for windows; why wellington boots are made of plastic/rubber.
3. Know how the water cycle works and be able to use words such as evaporation, water vapour, condensation.

are reversible and some are irreversible. Recognise the role of oxygen in combustion, the rusting of metals, etc. Understand the effects of weathering on buildings.

### PHYSICAL PROCESSES: PHYSICS

Children are expected to:

1. Know the difference between renewable and non-renewable sources of fuel, and the waste products of combustible fuels.
2. Know how energy is transferred and how forces such as friction, gravity and air resistance can affect direction and speed of movement.
3. Understand about our solar system and order the planets around the Sun.
4. Know about light, its sources and movement, and understand reflection, refraction and shadow formation.
5. Know the seven colours of the spectrum and the effect of the use of prisms and coloured filters.
6. Know about sound, how it is made, and that it travels more slowly than light.
7. Understand about different electrical circuits and be able to understand and interpret the symbols used in diagrams for switches, bulbs, etc.
8. Know that some changes

### QUESTIONS FROM LAST YEAR

**3** Solids, liquids and gases have different properties. The chart below shows some of these properties. Complete the table by ticking (✓) to show the properties of solids, liquids and gases. The first row has been done for you. Some rows may need more than one tick.

property	solid	liquid	gas
Keeps its own shape	✓		
Flows easily through a pipe		✓	
Can make rigid or soft structures			✓
Can be squashed into a much smaller volume			✓
Takes the shape of the container into which it is put			✓

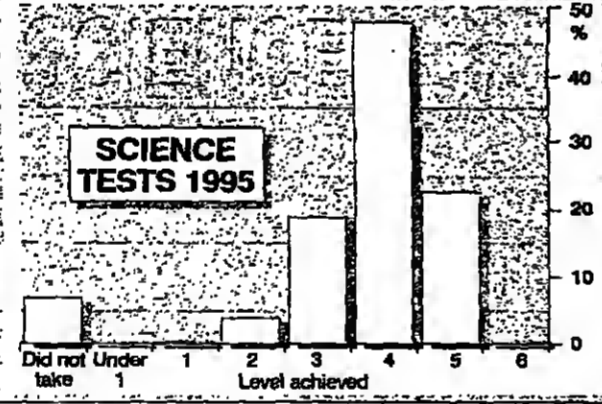
**7**

Slugs can eat lettuce. Kestrels can eat frogs. Frogs can eat slugs.

(a) Write this as a food chain.

(b) Write the name of the producer in this food chain.

## Tougher tests lie in store



CHILDREN are expected to show a good grasp of scientific vocabulary in their science tests at 11 but will be allowed some leeway with the spelling of difficult words. Markers did not discount incorrect spellings of technical words last year unless they were unrecognisable. For example, "constration" was marked wrong but "condensation" correct. Those who chose to describe the effect of the Sun on the Earth as it rotated, rather than illustrate it, tended to receive higher marks last year. Generally, questions will be more demanding because assessors considered the range too narrow at Level 5 last summer. The Levels 3 to 5 science tests for 11-year-olds will contain 15 per cent more

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THE full set of questions from last year's optional curriculum tests for 11-year-olds is now available in three paperback books sponsored by The Times. Separate books cover English, mathematics and science. Each includes advice on preparation, an explanation of the marking, and sample questions. *The Parents' Guide to National Tests*, published by HMSO, costs £4.95 per subject. They are also available at bookshops.

# Tom

Tom.wood@europaonline.com

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THE DAIHATSU HIJET

# Easy pieces for fast women



Donna Karan and her customers are celebrating ten years of understated dressing for women on the move

When designer Donna Karan unveils her latest designs in New York this week she will have extra cause to celebrate. Her company is now ten years old. Karan founded her business on little more than a foundation garment itself, taking her inspiration for her stretch jersey body from Martha Graham's dance leotard. Like the cleverest of concepts, it was an achingly simple idea: sometimes wrapped with an additional length of fabric which doubled as a

parco skirt, or with a crisp white shirt attached. "At the time I didn't think of it as revolutionary," says Karan. Fashion myth would have it that Karan's career began when the designer asked herself "What do I really need in my wardrobe?" In response she created her own line of clothing, a wardrobe full of understated easy pieces which fitted together. Uncomplicated, modern and luxurious, befitting a fast-moving female on Seventh Avenue, it soon clicked with high-powered women executives

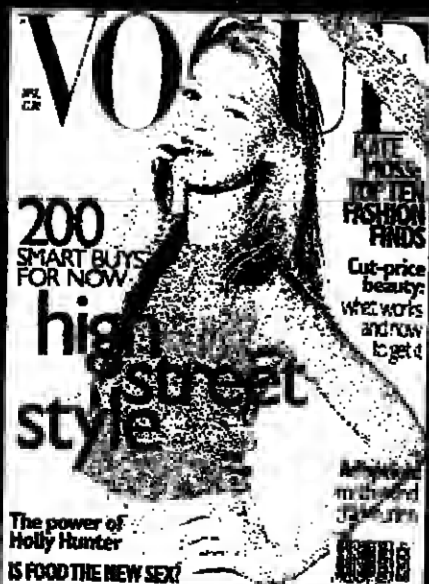
the world over. A loyal clientele was formed. Karan's label and her customers have grown up together because, the designer says, she understands their needs. They are the same as her own. As she gets older she believes this to be even more important. "Probably more so, because there are more things to think about," says Karan, who describes herself as a problem solver. "Your body shifts." Karan is all too aware that women are inundated with too many clothes. She calls it "product pollution." "Fashion is going too fast," she says. "Everyone wants new, new, new, and the customer becomes very confused." This prompted Karan



ABOVE: Kristen McMenamy, model, wears black silk and tulle evening gown with vest top  
 ABOVE LEFT: Benedetta Barzini, journalist, wears beaded evening slip dress with low scoop neckline  
 LEFT: Anh Duong, artist, wears tailored single-breasted trouser suit with narrow-leg pants  
 RIGHT: Kristen McMenamy wears satin capri pants and camel double-breasted cashmere overcoat  
 Photographs by HERB FITTS  
 from *Modern Souls*, a celebration of Donna Karan clothes modelled by her customers and friends (published by Distributed Art Publishers, available price £39.95 from Harrods, SW1, Dillons, W1, Zwemmer, W1 and selected book stores nationwide)



## Vogue's view of high street style



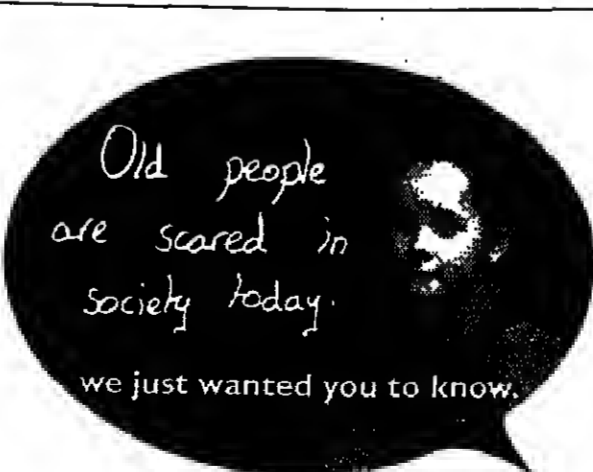
April issue Out now

### Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB

to introduce the Essentials collection, so that a woman can always go into a store and buy that black suit or white shirt. "Great items to add to what you already own," she says. "You don't have to start over each season." Every season she reappraises the collection. It is not the same collection you saw three years ago — a lapel on a jacket may be wider, a trouser narrower, a hemline shorter. There are always new things added to the line. "The things women like and want more of." This season they include a leather jacket cut like a motorcycle jacket but in the softest of skins, a little sweater ("a sleek finish under a jacket or to top a grand ballgown skirt"), a tuxedo jacket which works worn over a black dress or as part of a suit, a knit rib dress ("the newest foundation"), and the ubiquitous white shirt. As fashion in the 1990s gives women more choice, what does Donna Karan offer? "I like to have a system of dressing to make life easy. Fabrics which can go from day to evening. Clothes which are packable, a pair of shoes to go with anything. It's no longer about long or short. Clothes need to be comfortable, flexible and functional."



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حکومت من الاصل

# Why therapy is not a soft option

Every day of the working week, I sit in my consulting room listening to people in distress. At a wish to be living their lives unencumbered by chronic anxieties, insecurities, despair, rages or depressions. Although some media coverage of psychotherapy might suggest otherwise, therapy is not a soft option, a kind of massage of the soul, a self-indulgent 50 minutes, or a faddish part of the lives of the well-heeled and well-educated. Rather, it is sought when other means for change have been exhausted: when friends, families, lovers and teachers have been unable to provide the means to address the pain that so troubles the person.

Of late, we are used to family relationships being used for political gain by politicians who, misunderstanding either wilfully, mendaciously or ignorantly the complex texture of emotional life, make a rhetorical call for a return to family values — a presumed two-parent idyll that never was from within which most of my patients were raised. The family is presented as a harmonious, supportive unit in which conflict is managed, responsibility taken on readily, and in which parents parent.

All the economic pressures, the shifts in gender relations and the worries about work are miraculously meant to be absorbed and processed in the family. The

family is both bulwark against society and a treatment plant for society's sewage. The tensions between parents and children; between the sexes; the demands on women to care for the elderly and the young; the restructuring of work; the very things that make individuals and groups of individuals unstable, instead of being engaged within the political debate, are given a sleight of hand — or worse, even a dose of ideology — to cover them up.

Part of this nostalgic call by politicians to the family speaks to us and acts as a temporary balm, because the search for certainty, for stability, for security, is something we can all relate to. We crave these in the face of political, economic and social uncertainty and we crave these in the face of lives lived with insufficient emotional sustenance. But what sense can we make of our desires today? The image of the family unit is the gossamer over which we stretch our needs for attachment, for intimacy and autonomy. Where our politicians and policymakers are inclined to look at the forms of attachment,

we do well to look rather at the content of attachments. Where we fantasise stable relationships, hearts-and-flowers romances, we would do well to look rather at what intimate human engagement requires and supplies; what makes relationships work.

Most importantly, we need to recognise that one of our human dilemmas is that relationships can be especially adhesive when they are patently destructive. Part of what psychoanalysis allows us to see is that where the early environment can provide relationships in which the baby can have its initiatives responded to with care, when the needs of the child can be held to mind, the child grows up with the emotional base to be a partner in creating and maintaining attachments which are secure and stable. It can manage inside itself the consequences of disappointment, of things going wrong.

Where early life fails, the individual grows up experiencing a lack of self-regard along a continuum from insecurity to self-hate. The hurtful relationship cannot be given up but is like a manacle binding the person to the emotional path of that relationship. To put it starkly: if good relationships in early life incline one to seek out



by Susie Orbach

their repetition, so does the influence of unsatisfactory relationships. We are disposed to repeat what is, even if that has been felt to be insufficient, for that is how inside ourselves we experience relationship. We know no other. The extent to which one has been let down by a parental relationship is the extent to which, in the unconscious, that parent is still much wanted. Meanwhile, in the outside world, the experience of unsatisfactory relating will tilt the person unwittingly to seek, attract and confirm that experi-

ence in new relationships, even as they try to challenge it. The channels for receiving a more wholesome relationship are closed. Bad relationships can't easily be given up. They are hard to digest and best done with. They linger and fester, unleashing emotional havoc on others, binding up psychic energy so that engagement in the world is often reactive rather than creative.

In trying to build enabling relationships in a Risk Society so that we contribute and shape that society rather than feel ourselves to be constantly reactive, blown off course and rushing to catch up with it, we require a base of emotional security. Emotional security is the basis of autonomy. Particularly in times of rapid unannounced change, the capacity to embrace what is, to think and to act out of that thoughtfulness, depends upon the internalisation of enabling attachments.

One thing that skewers our relationships is our gender arrangements. For years the myth was that women were dependent and men independent. But what underpins men and supports their apparent autonomy? What makes it possible for men to feel able to take on challenges in the world, in so far as they have to take a personal authority, to feel unbur-

dened by deep insecurities? What emotional services have men historically received that have sustained their sense of independence?

What twist has allowed women to be seen as emotionally dependent when it is obvious that their role has been to provide a relationship on which others may depend without anticipating such a relationship for themselves?

I am not arguing that men are dependent and women not. I am suggesting that in any consideration of how we build quality relationships, and the means to adapt to the challenges of the Risk Society, the question of the disposition of emotional dependency needs and emotional capacities between women and men needs to be confronted and the issues of autonomy and dependency, and their relationship to one another understood and re-fashioned so emotional resilience is more widely available.

We need not remain mystified about what makes enabling relationships. Relationships that enable are those which allow a full experience of the other, which allow for a range of emotional responses to be registered rather than interfered with. They don't

consist of carving up emotions and letting men carry one set and women another. Adults who can ask of one another how they are and stick around for a genuine reply without trying to fix, transform, deny or ridicule the responses they get, are providing enabling relationships.

Such relating depends on a capacity to resonate with another emotionally without being swamped, to empathise without feeling impelled to make better, so that there is space for those responses so often disregarded because they fail the test of drama. Enabling relationships depend upon an equal emotional exchange and a certain emotional fluency. Enabling relationships make it possible for us to hold contradictory feelings simultaneously, rather than retreat into emotional fundamentalism where all is good or bad or love and hate and where scapegoating — projecting — dominates our relation to self and others.

The capacity to manage complex emotional lives is a political issue. It makes for a robust population which can think about the wider political issues rather than being emotionally manipulated by them — one which can refuse the false conflation of the private and the public and which can open up new issues in the public agenda.

● Abridged from a talk given yesterday to the Institute of Public Policy Research conference on Risk Society

# Everybody loves a loser

## Where's the beef? You decide

It must be excruciating to watch the Oscars from a chair in the audience, but from the comfort of our own sofas at home it makes perfect television

Why would any of us watch the Oscars? I'm not sure anyone really minds who wins what, or even, despite the pretence of press interest in the subject, who wears what. But it seems the Academy Awards ceremony holds some sway over here.

There might not be enough enthusiasm to keep people up all night watching the full, live, unexpurgated version as it is beamed from a narcissistically quivering LA but — and this seems to be odder, insomniac fanaticism being somewhat easier to understand than hearty concern — a number of people I spoke to yesterday morning told me, unashamedly, that they wouldn't be listening to or watching the news all day just so they wouldn't find out who got what before the BBC showed the highlights last night. One begins to fear for one's friends.

Nevertheless, I did watch it. The whole damn shoot. And although I might reassure myself that it was all in the line of duty, I began to see the appeal. For the British audience, the lure is twofold. In the first instance we see our worst impressions of Americans in general, and actors in particular, confirmed; and in the second — and this is the truly more pleasurable aspect — we get to see people lose, publicly and big time.

Those motivations apart, at least for the moment, the Awards ceremony is ideally



Nigella Lawson

suited to television. It's pretty and bright and vacuous and ephemeral. In fact, the whole production seems to sit more happily on the screen in the corner of the room than it does in the cavernous theatrical spaces of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. There, the actors seem to get lost; they belong to celluloid, not to the stage. And

To watch the actual event from a chair in the auditorium must be excruciating. From the sofa at home we can at least wallow in the agreeable awfulness. That, of course, is what the Oscars are all about. We expect everyone to be at their schmalztzy worst. Strangely enough the British, so prone to embarrassment, seem to like being embarrassed. We watch those acceptance speeches cringing, peeping over cushions held up for notional protection, and yet we wouldn't watch if it weren't for the prospect of our being embarrassed.

Truth to tell, this year things were looking a bit lacklustre on that front. Whoopi Goldberg is too acerbic a personality to invite self-indulgent thespian navel-gazing. Her opening riff about the ribbons people had asked her to wear (red for AIDS awareness, purple for breast cancer awareness, milk-white for "mad cow" awareness and so forth) was about as anti-Hollywood as you could get and still get a round of applause.

But as the show progressed, the stars began to show their true colours. Mira Sorvino — best supporting actress in Woody Allen's *Mighty Aphrodite* — turned in a sterling acceptance speech, culminating in a sentimental paean of praise for her father, Paul, who was then shown weeping openly and blottedly in his seat. Best actress (and how) Susan Sarandon, who is always written about as an admirable type of anti-fuvvie, was full of dazed oh-my-oh-mys, not being able to get over her surprise at even being "included among such fine actors" (Nicolas Cage later expressed the same modest sentiment), and ended her speech: "May we all in our homes and in our hearts find a way to non-violently end violence and heal."

But it's not surprising that Hollywood is sentimental. It's built on sentiment. Death must therefore be emotionally venerated. There isn't quite an award for Best Dead Person but there is a roll call, throatily intoned, of "Academy mem-



Best actress Susan Sarandon hoped we would all "in our hearts find a way to non-violently end violence and heal"

bers who have left us since Academy Awards night last year", and some defunct members get more applause than others. One can't help feeling, however, that Louis Malle's high rating (justly earned, that I don't dispute) isn't more of an indication that the Hollywood audience wanted to show they knew how to appreciate an art-house movie director.

At other times, the audience — that's to say, the actors — behaved quite breathtakingly. Despite Goldberg's cynicism, Hollywood, a reactionary town, has always been strangely insistent on showing a degree of liberal compassion. Caring about the right things and showing you care is important. It wants to be right-

We expect everyone to be at their schmalztzy worst and watch the speeches from behind cushions

Poitier given a standing ovation for being "the first black Academy Award winner" (though in the light of Jesse Jackson's input this year, perhaps a heightened sensitivity is to be expected). But it seems to me grossly patronising — and, for what it's worth, distinctly unPC — to clap someone for being paralysed or black.

It would be wrong to say that we enjoy the discomfiture of the actors, since none of them showed any sign of knowing that it might have been seemly to be discomfited. But at least we know that by the end of the evening there have been more losers than winners. And that seems to keep us at home happy.

THERE'S SOMETHING I don't understand: why does this Government, which has always been keen to show itself the party that believes in choice, so evidently believe we have no real right to choose to stop eating British beef?

However infinitesimal the risks land I'm sure the only reason we feel them to be greater than they probably are is because we've been led to believe they were less than they are, nothing alters the fact that we are perfectly free to eat what we want, or not eat what we don't want. We don't need to justify ourselves.

People do justify themselves, though, and it's because they are afraid of being thought wimps. Thus people are actually boasting, for example, of having had steak for lunch. I don't quite get it myself, but then I have never understood why people seem to think the stronger the curry they can put away the better light it puts them in.

The idea that eating beef is macho is hardly new, of course, but this boasting is more than that. It's as if showing a glorious unconcern for what is troubling others — the little people — shows an aristocratic spirit, shows bravery. The risk is small, so it is petty of us, it is implied, even to heed it. I see the point of running risks if we have something to gain thereby, but this is rather a different matter.

Anyway, if one is worried about eating beef, why do so? If to eat it gives us more anxiety than pleasure, then not to is hardly a deprivation. Our duty is not foremost to the farmers of Great Britain, as the Government might have been wise to recognise. My position here is that I'll eat organic beef, or as good as, if it comes from my butcher, Mr Lidgate. In other words, I trust him and he trusts his farmers, which is how it should be.

But why anyone should feel under pressure to pretend an unfelt insouciance is beyond me: it's not, after all, as if we trusted the Government.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BELVEDERE PALACE WARSAW. The Queen this morning visited the British Council, Warsaw, and toured the building, meeting staff and Polish contacts of the Council.



Students at the Royal Ballet School in west London rehearsing yesterday after the announcement of an extra 100 state-funded places at music and ballet schools, bringing the total to 600. The scheme will also fund tuition and boarding. Dance, page 38

Thanksgiving for the Life of the Lord Glendevon which was held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London SW1, today.

The Duke of Kent was represented by Major General Iain Mackay-Dick, Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy was represented by the Lady Mary Mumford.

Dinners

Constructors' Company The Vellum of the Constructors' Company to the 1994 Geoffrey Williams Scholar, Mr Stuart Goshin, at the Constructors' Ladies dinner held last night at the Mansion House.

Lord Marshall of Goring A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Marshall of Goring will take place in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey at noon on Thursday, May 2.

Memorial services

Lord Glendevon The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Major General Iain Mackay-Dick, Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy was represented by the Lady Mary Mumford.

Lord Mayor of Westminster The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoresse, assisted by the Rev Jonathan Hope, son, read an extract from the father's memoirs, Thanks for the Laughter. Sir Edward Cazzell gave an address.

Birthdays today

Lord Amery of Lustleigh, 77; Mr D.R.G. Andrews, former chairman, Land Rover-Leyland, 63; Mrs Mary Armour, artist, 94; Mrs Ruth Ashton, former general secretary, Royal College of Midwives, 51; Mr R.P. Bauman, chairman, British Aerospace, 65; Professor A.J. Bellingham, President, Royal College of Pathologists, 58; Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, former chairman, Press Council, 70; Mr Kim Brassey, racehorse trainer, 41; Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, KG, 84; Mr R.P. Cohan, chorographer, 71; Mr P. Daubney, chief executive, Electricity Association, 58; Mr Patrick Deuchar, chief executive, Albert Hall, 47; Miss Maria Ewing, opera singer, 46; Lord Fanshawe of Richmond, 69; Mr Julian Glover, actor, 61; Sir David Hancock, civil servant, 62; Mr Ebery Hanley, rugby league player, 39; Mr Nicholas Hawkins, MP, 39; Mr Victor Hochhauser, impresario, 72; Lord Lyell, 57; Mr Patrick McCabe, novelist, 41; Mr J.G. Parker, former High Master, Manchester Grammar School, 63; Lord Plum, MEP, 71; Mr Mstislav Rostropovich, cellist and conductor, 69; Sir Richard Sharp, civil servant, 81; Admiral Sir Jack Slemmer, 58; Professor Margaret Stacey, sociologist, 74; the Earl of Suffolk, and Berkshire, 51; Mr Frank Taylor, Chief Constable, Durham, 63; Miss Daphne Todd, painter, Royal Society of Portrait Painters, 49; Mr Cyrus Vance, KBE, former American politician, 79; Mr Michael York, actor, 54.

Schools news Queen Margaret's School, York announces the award of the following Iain Mackay-Dick, Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy was represented by the Lady Mary Mumford.

Ann Blaikie

A memorial Mass in Thanksgiving for the life of Ann Blaikie will be celebrated in Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, April 27, 1996, at 2.00pm.

Announcements

Deaths Mr Edward William Evans, aged 82, died peacefully on Monday, March 26, 1996.

Anniversaries

Deaths King James VI of Scotland (reigned 1603-25), Theobald, Hertfordshire, 1625; Sir George Gilbert Scott, architect, London, 1878; Henry Adams, historian, Washington, 1918; Arnold Bennett, novelist, London, 1931; Yuri Gagarin, first cosmonaut to orbit the Earth (1961), killed in an air crash, Moscow, 1968.

PERSONAL

1996. The Queen this morning visited the British Council, Warsaw, and toured the building, meeting staff and Polish contacts of the Council.

DEATHS

ATKINSON - On March 24th 1996, peacefully, Elizabeth Heathcote, 74, died.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

MELVILLE - A Service in Remembrance of Joan Melville will be held at All Saints Church, London W11.

TICKETS FOR SALE

TICKETS FOR SALE When responding to advertisements, please state the name of the newspaper in which you saw the advertisement.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr E.H. Balfour and Miss V.F. Norton The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Rear Admiral and Mrs Hugh Balfour, of Donhead St Mary, and Vanessa, daughter of Mr Barrie Norton, of Perth, Australia, and Mrs Jeffrey Jarvis, of Brisbane.

Mr D.P. Leverett and Miss L.V.P. Parker The engagement is announced between David, son of the late Mr Andrew Thomas Leverett, and Mrs Leverett, of Barlesville, Oklahoma, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Parker, of London, NW11.

Mr William McNeil Styles The funeral of Dr William McNeil Styles, OBE, FRCGP, took place on Friday, March 15, at St Nicholas, Chislehurst. The Rev Dr John Thevold officiated and paid tribute.

PERSONAL ADVERTISEMENTS: TICKETS FOR SALE, OVERSEAS TRAVEL, FLIGHTS DIRECTORY, CAPITAL FLIGHTS, WINTER SPORTS, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, GIFTS.

OBITUARY: The Times Obituary section, listing various deaths and funeral services.



# Interrogatories must be necessary Leicester Square is not 'premises'

**Hall v Selvaico Ltd**  
**Crompton v Selvaico Ltd**  
Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Auld (Judgment March 21)

Interrogatories were not to be regarded as a source of ammunition to be routinely discharged as part of an interlocutory bombardment preceding the main battle. They had to satisfy the stringent test in Order 26, rule 1(i) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, that they were "necessary either for disposing fairly of the cause or matter or for saving costs".

Interrogatories served by the defendant in each case, Selvaico Ltd, and had directed them to answer the interrogatories and (ii) reinstating the orders of the deputy district judges.

Each plaintiff had begun proceedings in the county court claiming damages for industrial deafness against defendant employers and filing a medical report with the particulars of claim. In each case the defendant served its defence promptly, alleging that the claim was time-barred.

administration of interrogatories to county court actions.

Mr Nigel Cookley for the plaintiff in each action: Mr Anthony Goldstah, QC, for the defendant in each action.

Interrogatories should not be regarded as a source of ammunition to be routinely discharged as part of an interlocutory bombardment preceding the main battle. The interrogator had to be able to show that his interrogatories, if answered when served, would serve a clear litigious purpose by saving costs or promoting the fair and efficient conduct of the action.

In the *Det Danske* case Mr Justice Colman had given reliable guidance on the approach to interrogatories. Since the same rules applied in the Commercial Court as elsewhere his observations were not applicable only to commercial cases.

**Regina v Bow Street Magistrates' Court and Another, Ex parte McDonald**  
Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Sliemann and Sir Ralph Gibson (Judgment March 20)

A busker playing his guitar in Leicester Square was not required to obtain a licence from the council to do so and was not acting unlawfully.

described as "premises" for the purposes of Schedule 12.

Paragraph 1(7) of the Schedule provides: "In this paragraph 'premises' includes any place."

Mr Charles Salter for the applicant: Mr Timothy Spencer for the council; Bow Street Magistrates' Court did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE SHIEMANN said that the appeal raised questions of importance to buskers in London. Depending on the tastes of the hearer and skill of the busker, their activities could add or detract from the pleasures of daily life. They had been playing music for years in the streets of London.

member of the public had access. One music maker could replace another at an attractive spot and the schedule did not envisage situations in which several persons were licensed during one day to operate in one place.

It was not known whether Mr McDonald had Leicester Square to himself. One rather doubted it. Yet it was Leicester Square which was alleged to constitute the premises which should have been licensed, which McDonald was playing his guitar in a public place to which the public had access and over which the council had innumerable powers. That was not a situation for which Schedule 12 was designed, or which should be interpreted, to cover.

## Bid to revive defunct statutory company fails

**National Rivers Authority v Stockinger and Others**

Individuals wishing to become shareholders in a defunct statutory company could not do so by applying the principle *cogito ergo sum*.

Mr Stockinger, neither having any interest in the company nor being instructed on behalf of anyone who had, had simply declared himself a trustee, initiated a meeting such as true shareholders might have held and behaved as if it had; just as if he had lifted himself into the company's saddle by his own bootstraps.

The National Rivers Authority had been entitled to such declarations as would have the effect of removing an impediment affecting itself and its functions.

## Sexual identity fixed at birth

**Regina v Registrar General for England and Wales, Ex parte P**  
**Same v Same, Ex parte G**

The Registrar General had not acted irrationally in refusing to alter the birth certificates of applicants who had undergone gender re-assignment surgery so as to reflect their current sexual identity.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that section 29(3) of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953 permitted an error of fact or substance in a birth certificate to be corrected by an entry in the margin. The birth register was a historical record and not a statement of current identity.

In April 1993 there was still such uncertainty in scientific circles as to the cause of transsexualism that the Registrar was fully entitled to adhere to the tests for ascertaining the sex of a child approved in *Corbett v Corbett* (1971) p 83 and *R v Tan* (1983) 1 QB 1053.

## Extra protection from date of first licence

**Io re Aktiebolaget Draco**  
Before Mr Justice Jacob

When a patent holder obtained a product licence for a medicinal product which was then the subject of further research leading to the grant of a further product licence for a new and improved form of the same chemical compound, any entitlement to a five-year supplementary protection certificate was only from the date of the first product licence and not from the later one.

The supplementary protection scheme under Regulation No EEC/1768/92 (OJ 1992 No L382/2) was not for the general protection of the fruits of research but to compensate for lost time in the exploitation of patented inventions.

Mr Justice Jacob sitting in the Chancery Division so held when dismissing an appeal by the patent holders, Aktiebolaget Draco, of Sweden, from a decision of Mr L. Lewis, a principal examiner, acting for the Comptroller of Patents, refusing to grant the patent holders a supplementary protection certificate.

The member states of the EU recognised by the supplementary protection certificate scheme that research in the drug field was not getting its proper reward.

His Lordship did not agree. He said that the research leading to the turbohaler was formulation research. There was nothing indicating that formulation research, unless it warranted its own patent, was to be protected by the supplementary protection certificate scheme.

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THE TIMES

Did South Africa... too richly... the Mandela... split asks... Ray Kennedy

Take two FREE Tussauds

Woman's Hour has thrived for 50 years by maintaining a balance between radical feminism and unapologetic domesticity

On next Friday's Woman's Hour Jenni Murray, the main presenter for nine years, will pick up the Broadcasting Press Guild award for Radio Broadcaster of the Year. She wins not only for consistent intelligence, news sense, imagination and stamina - broadcasting live for four mornings a week - but also for the remarkable quality of her voice. In my long and unsuccessful efforts to sound less "backwoods Massachusetts", I have often thought that, born again, I would come back as Jenni Murray.

So Woman's Hour's agenda is clear: the topical and the timeless, the public and the personal. Monday's interview with Susan Sarandon about the political uses of stardom was a good example. "But if you were starting such a programme today," suggests Paul Donovan, radio critic of The Sunday Times, "you wouldn't call it Woman's Hour, would you? No, you'd call it The Girlie Show, and you'd get the same result - women saying what they don't say elsewhere and men tuning in to hear it. But in 50 years from now, Channel 4 will not be celebrating The Girlie Show. While Woman's Hour may recognise shoplifting as a women's problem, it will not tell you how to do it.

British habit of official secrecy. I was refreshed to hear a reminder of government doing something in favour of openness. In 1946 Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick, head of information at the Foreign Office, launched the service in the hope it would broadcast into the Soviet Union "the true proportion of favourable and unfavourable opinion". This sense of proportion, and the Foreign Office's trust in the BBC to deliver it, saved the Russian Service from turning into "Cold War Radio", as its American counterparts did. Perhaps the FO should get a freedom of information award.

And finally, all the excitement about the V-chip has been used up with magical powers to keep out the offensive words and scenes of a parent's choosing. Nothing like the V-chip, as about to be introduced in Canada and the United States. Blocks out whole programmes, not just the naughty bits. What it should really be called is a ratings system, but there are no headlines in that.

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Give truck drivers their hour back



BRENDA MADDOX

driver's lament on another Radio 4 programme, The Trade Rog, last week: "A great tragedy for British working truck drivers was when Woman's Hour was altered to 10.30 in the morning. That's no use to anyone. In the morning, you're getting in and out of the cab, delivering the goods... In the afternoon we're running back, and there's a chance to relax and listen to Woman's Hour."

And, yes, more men are listening - but not very many more. The sex ratio in 1991 was 70-30, now it is 65-35.

may not be reaching an important constituency - women who work part-time. Many of these get home just after lunch and have an hour to themselves before they collect their children from school. This pattern applies to work-at-home fathers too.

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A very public divorce

Did South Africa feast too richly on the Mandela split, asks Ray Kennedy



Despite constitutional restrictions, lurid details of the Mandelas' divorce hearing were splashed across the press

The South African Divorce Act, as amended in 1979, is perfectly explicit: it is illegal to publish any particulars of an action other than the names of the parties and the judgment or order of the court. In the case of President Nelson Mandela and his former wife, Winnie Mdzikela-Mandela, as she now wishes to be known, the media reported every salacious detail of bedroom snubs, adultery and alleged wifely extravagance.

Professor Dennis Davies, a constitutional law specialist at the University of Witwatersrand, found it "unbelievable" that the restrictions were breached so brazenly. "Being President gives you a reduced right to privacy, but it can't possibly destroy your privacy completely," Professor Davies said. "He might be the most famous person in the world, but he is not public property."

His ruling effectively set a new benchmark for litigation by public figures learning towards the well-established principle in the United States that a democracy cannot flourish unless its citizens are free to criticise officials. He said the judgment was based on a legal system that "did not treasure at its core a democratic system". The country's new values of legal order depended on "vigorous mechanisms of public scrutiny and public debate, not only to

Alan Mitchell looks at a new way of buying our food

SAINSBURY'S is planning to revolutionise the way people shop by delivering groceries straight to customers' homes. The country's second-biggest supermarket chain is negotiating with Supermarket Direct, a London-based home shopping firm, to co-brand its operation as a Sainsbury-endorsed service.

Don't go shopping, let it come to you

The venture has been operating in the Wimbledon, Putney, Fulham and Clapham areas of south London since last October. The plan is for nationwide expansion, and a stock market flotation in two to three years' time. Dominic Scott-Flanagan, a director, says: "We believe that once consumers have shopped with us they will never want to visit a busy supermarket again."

Peapod, the leader in the home-shopping field, counts 60 per cent of its customers as dual-income families with children. The big shift, however, will take place only when "door-drop density" reaches a point where it actually becomes cheaper to deliver direct to the home.



income professional couples with children, families prepared to pay big margins on expensive food and drink for the privilege of having it delivered to their door. These people are so profitable that a superstore with 20,000 regular customers faces losing 10 per cent of its total profits if just 200 of them disappear.

That has been the experience in America, where

THE TIMES Take two children FREE to a Tussauds attraction



The Times, in association with Tussauds Group, offers readers a chance to take two children, in April (excluding Easter 5-8 inclusive) and May, free to any of Tussauds' eight attractions saving up to £26.

Full details appeared in Saturday's Times, but the following are the attractions you can enjoy, with the amount you would save off the price of tickets for two children in brackets: Chessington World of Adventures (save £26); Alton Towers (save £26); Madame Tussauds (save £11.50); The London Planetarium (save £7.20); Warwick Castle (save £10.50); Rock Circus (save £11.90); Port Aventura, Spain (save £32); Madame Tussauds Scaevola, Holland (save £12).

This is the price that one has to pay for democracy

nurture the new structures but to guard against excesses in their exercise. After it came to power in May 1994, pledging transparent government, the African National Congress enjoyed a long honeymoon with a South African press that had endured and in some cases vigorously opposed decades of legislated censorship and hostility under the apartheid regime. Up to 100 laws inhibited

Death in the afternoon

THE afternoon is about to become the new battleground for terrestrial television audiences. Alexandra Frain writes. Channel 5, the nation's fifth free-to-air channel which is due to launch to 70 per cent of the country next January, has already earmarked weekday afternoons

Table with columns: Programme, Date, Time, Channel, Producer, Genre, Audience (m)

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NEWS

Mass cull of cattle in prospect

The Government was last night seriously considering the large-scale destruction of cattle as European veterinary officials upheld their plans for a world ban.

Mafia linked to infected meat

Italian complacency over "mad cow" disease turned to alarm as another case of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease surfaced and there were fears that the Mafia may have sold infected cattle.

Cambodia kidnap

Christopher Howes, a British charity worker kidnapped at gunpoint in northwest Cambodia, was believed to have been seized by a breakaway faction of the Khmer Rouge.

Healthy nation

Britons are not only living longer but are staying healthier in old age. Although the population is growing older, there is no increase in the proportion of dependent people.

Scott in row

Sir Richard Scott is embroiled with Whitehall over plans to publish thousands of confidential Government documents which he examined in the course of his arms-to-Iraq inquiry.

Violent crime up

Violent crime and robberies increased last year in spite of the third consecutive annual overall drop in recorded offences in England and Wales.

Sword evidence

A cavalry sword, probably used to decapitate one of his victims, linked an Australian roadworker to the murders of seven tourists, the "backpacker trial" in Sydney was told.

British Oscars

Britons triumphed at the Oscars with Emma Thompson (Sense and Sensibility screenplay) and Nick Park (creator of Wallace and Gromit) making cinematic history.

Bypass go-slow

The Newbury bypass could be further delayed while conservation experts think what to do with Desmoulin's Wood, a snail the size of a breadcrumb.

Hong Kong pressure

China has told senior Hong Kong civil servants that they must demonstrate their support for the Peking-appointed Provisional Legislative Council.

Forces ferries

Two roll-on, roll-off ferries are to be bought for the Armed Forces as part of a £150 million package to boost their rapid deployment capability.

Back to his roots

Bob Dole made an emotional return to his birthplace of Russell, Kansas, as he was cementing the Republican nomination in the California primary.

Royal slip

Buckingham Palace blamed a computer error for the Queen's failure to deliver a key part of her speech, about Polish Jews, to the Polish Parliament.

Bosnia warning

Western diplomats say that unless the ceasefire in Bosnia is stabilised, the elections planned for this autumn may be postponed or scrapped.

Cyber cheating comes to Scotland

Up to 20,000 candidates for Scotland's Higher Grade mathematics examination, which is used for university entrance, can read the answers to the coursework section on the Internet.



A toy pig joins the winners of the best visual effects Oscar. Their film "Babe" is about a talking pig that wants to be a sheepdog

BUSINESS

Railtrack: The Government said that it is aiming to float the company that owns 10,000 miles of track and 2,500 stations in the first half of May.

SPORT

Football: England have made four changes from the side which drew with Portugal for the match against Bulgaria. Les Ferdinand will lead the attack.

ARTS

Dramatic reappraisal: Samuel Beckett would have been 90 next month, but he is still both revered and neglected. Andy Lavender assesses the great man's place in the Nineties.

FEATURES

Couch comfort: Susie Orbach on why psychotherapy is not a soft option.

MARKETS

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 21.0 points to close at 3660.9. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 83.3 to 83.2 after a fall from \$1,524.0 to \$1,522.2 and from DM2,251.7 to DM2,246.5.

CRICKET

Cricket: David Lloyd and John Embury remain the favourites to be appointed coach to the England team this summer.

DRUGS

Drugs in sport: The director general of the Sports Council is optimistic that high-resolution drug-testing apparatus will soon become available in Britain.

DANCING

Dancing delight: Cinderella is treated to a splendid ball in English National Ballet's superb new staging by Michael Corder at the Coliseum.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FILMS Geoff Brown reviews Dead Man Walking, starring Oscar-winner Susan Sarandon (left), and other releases.

BOOKS

Gitta Sereny on Hitler's Willing Executioners

DESIGNER

Designer decade: Donna Karan and her customers are celebrating ten years of understated dressing for women on the move.

DINING

Dining on divorce: The South African media brazenly breached the law to report every detail of the Mandela divorce.

HOME

Run-down and out: Rachel Kelly on why a squire and his wife are swapping suburbia for an old, cold, damp family pile.

PROPERTY

Moving out: Why high street firms are leaving town.

THE PAPER

The sleek folks at the Oscars gave \$615,000 to the Democratic Party and \$5,750 to the Republicans. They fear a Republican government would try to impose "censorship".

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Miss UK may be politically incorrect, but what about her UK? Modern Times: Beautiful Men (BBC2, 9pm). Review: Lynne Truss on a Mersey boat that fails to pound.

OPINION

Here we go again John Major may have ERM engraved on his heart but BSE is bidding fair to be tattooed alongside.

POPA railway

For new Railtrack shareholders, the political risk is likely to be less than the discount on the new shares may suggest.

Tie me up, tie me down

What happened to the black tie and why was this formal dress given such short shrift by America's gifted great and good?

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

Jargon on infectivity is no help. I want to know where beef-eating stands on the spectrum of reckless liberties that I take with my body every hour of every day.

ALAN COREN

Adult screens would go blank in the middle of Brookside and Pride and Prejudice would suddenly turn into Beavis and Butthead.

SIMON BARNES

The concept of fun — perhaps the first motivator for all sport — has all but vanished. Blame athletes! One might as well blame weathercocks for the wind.

PETER RIDDELL

Beef will not be on the front pages for ever and BSE is likely to be remembered as merely a footnote in the history of the Major Government.

SENIOR EDITOR

Senator Edmund Muskie, US Secretary of State, 1980-81; John Pafford, Goldsmiths' Librarian of the University of London; John Saagge, broadcaster.

EDITOR

BSE: Cairn Gorm; standards at the bench; speeding offences; economic insecurity.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,126

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-27 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS 1 Forensic detectives holding crowd back (7). 5 Husband swimming near ship — it hangs about the bay (7). 9 Confusing sin with virtue can be disturbing (9). 10 Murder victim found beside root of elm tree (5). 11 Some rare this, making a hole (5). 12 Immediately caught leaving charming woman by river (9). 14 Description of intriguing garment with ragged paces (5-3-6). 17 Take steps as quickly as possible to limit damage done by strikers (3,3,8). 21 Explain meaning of popular palindromic (9). 23 Suitable position for one received with honour in Tyneside (5). 24 Not a minor form of education (5). 25 Start a bus moving around bases (9). 26 There's a show of disapproval when it's raised on the ridge (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,125. A grid of letters with words like CRUTCH, TORTURES, HELMSMEN, etc.

WEATHER

Table showing weather forecasts for various regions like Greater London, East Midlands, etc.

FORECAST

General: Wales and central and western England should be dry with broken cloud. Eastern England will be cloudy at times with wintry showers possible near the coast.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions and wind speeds for various locations like Aberdeen, London, Liverpool, etc.

ROADWATCH

Table showing road traffic and roadworks information for various routes.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing sunrise and sunset times for various locations.

ABROAD

Table showing weather forecasts for various international locations like Moscow, Tokyo, Sydney, etc.

HIGH TIDES

Table showing high tide times for various locations like London Bridge, Liverpool, etc.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 10C (50F); lowest day temp: Llandudno, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Basingstoke, 15.4in; highest sunshine: Tresa, Madeira, 8h.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring text like 'Sir Roo adds to his team', 'Sha fo', and 'Halifax'.





HOMES 34

Swapping suburbia for a cold family manor



ARTS 37-39

Are we forgetting the genius of Samuel Beckett?



SPORT 43-48

Ferdinand sent on the attack for England

TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 46, 47

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY MARCH 27 1996

Sir Rocco adds to his team

SIR ROCCO FORTE yesterday signalled his continued interest in bidding for the luxury hotel chain he lost to Granada...



Lord Sterling said the aim was to raise returns to in excess of 15 per cent over three years and businesses unable to reach the target would be shed

P&O to raise £1bn via sales

By CARL MORTISHED

P&O, the shipping, construction and property group, plans to raise up to £1 billion over the next three years...

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including Stock Market Indices, US Rate, London Money, Sterling, and Dollar.

Share shop doors open for Railtrack sell-off

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE Government launched the first stock market privatisation of a nationalised industry for five years yesterday when 10,000 share shops began accepting registrations...

largely in the private sector such as British Telecom. The pathfinder prospectus will be published on April 15...

which has been advising the Government on the sale. said: "It's now very easy, you don't have to think very much about how and where to register for shares..."

entitled to discounts and other incentives on their second tranche allocation. SBC Warburg has signed up 110 banks...

wholly dependent for profitability on political decisions about the level of subsidies. It is also a company which commands minimal confidence or respect on the basis of its performance so far...

M&S plans to open in Australia

MARKS & SPENCER plans to open 18 stores in Australia, with the first outlet trading by Christmas 1997...

Halifax plans big giveaway

By ROBERT MILLER

HALIFAX, the UK's largest building society, yesterday confirmed that it is on course to become one of the country's top 20 companies with a valuation of about £10 billion when it makes its stock market debut in the summer of 1997...



Blackburn: £10bn value in terms of value in the history of the world.

mortgage business. Monday's announcement of the society's proposed £800 million takeover of Clerical Medical, the insurer, was part of a strategy to increase market share in pensions, new life and unit trust business...

MPs say jobless data is inadequate

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE monthly unemployment figures are a "completely inadequate" measure of the number of people out of work, an all-party committee of MPs said yesterday as it called on ministers to publish a much wider range of job figures...

ment departments, the Tory-dominated employment committee said that, although the monthly claimant count is useful, it should not have been allowed to become the only measure of unemployment...

Barclay Brothers seek more room at the top

By ERIC REGULY



THE Barclay brothers, the reclusive identical twins who own the Ritz Hotel in London, have offered to buy the historic William Kent house that stands next to the Ritz. It is thought they would like to use the mansion to increase the hotel's capacity...

Scotsman and European newspapers, never comment to the press and it is not known whether they are considering a higher price. The Barclays bought the Ritz last October from Trafalgar House for £75 million...

in 1740. It was occupied over the centuries by a succession of grandees, starting with Henry Pelham, who was to become Prime Minister. The house, which is best known for its salon, hung with crimson damask and consisting of mythological figures, is considered one of the finest interiors in London...

Advertisement for WALTONS & MORSE INSURANCE TEAM, featuring text about joining EVERSHEIDS and contact information.

Old-style names put demands to Lloyd's

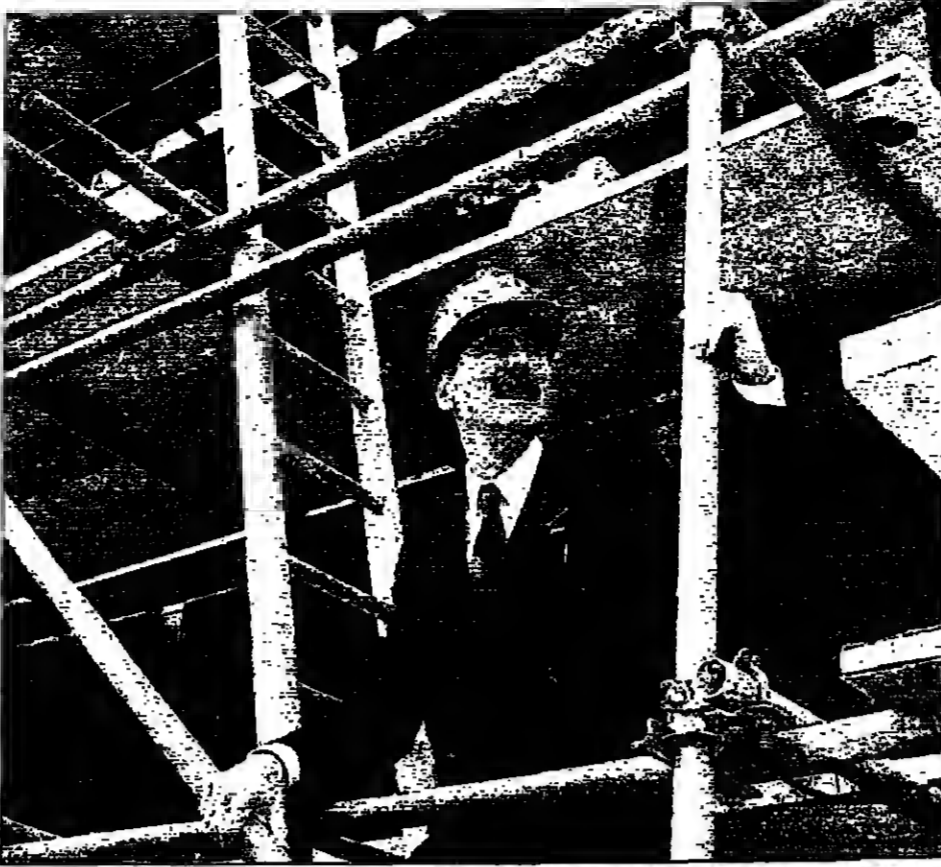
BY SARAH BAGNALL

THE dwindling ranks of traditional names at Lloyd's of London are demanding a bill of rights to prevent discrimination...

UK economy grew 2.5% during 1995

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE British economy grew by 2.5 per cent last year, slightly less than 2.6 per cent previously estimated...



Colin Parsons, Taylor Woodrow's chairman, plans quality rather than quantity

Taylor Woodrow lifts payout

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

TAYLOR WOODROW, the construction and property group, underlined an optimism for the future with a 50 per cent increase in its final dividend...

company emphasised that the need to restore construction to profitability is paramount...

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Orange shares ten times oversubscribed

THE initial public offering of shares in Orange, the third largest mobile phone operator, was ten times oversubscribed yesterday...

Orange, is owned by Hutchison Whamoa of Hong Kong and British Aerospace. Early indications were that 30,000 investors had agreed to make the £1,000 minimum investment...

Carnegie plans trusts

JP CARNEGIE, the Edinburgh asset management company, said that it intended to launch ten branded Carnegie Building Societies Investment Trusts...

Shake-up helps Camas

CAMAS, the building materials group, started to see the benefits of substantial trimming of costs and a drive on margins with a 26 per cent improvement in pre-tax profits in 1995...

Photronics chooses UK

MORE than 250 jobs are to be created by a leading American electronics company, which is locating its European headquarters in Britain...

Wolstenholme rises

'WOLSTENHOLME RINK, the supplier of products for the print industry, achieved a 23 per cent rise in profits to £7.5 million before tax in 1995...

US rates unchanged

AMERICA'S Federal Reserve yesterday left interest rates unchanged amid signs that the economy is springing back from a mid-winter slowdown...

Bankers driven to risk new crisis

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BANKERS fear they are being driven by intense competition to take unacceptably high risks that will trigger the next banking crisis...

Over half the respondents to a study into "banking banana skins" by the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation published today identified over-aggressive management...

chief executive of NatWest, said the price of credit was "so low being dictated by what the market will bear rather than by the credit risk"...

Pennington, page 27

TOURIST RATES

Table with columns for Bank, Buy, Sell and various countries like Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, etc.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344



ROBECO N.V.

(investment company with a variable capital)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

to be held on Friday, 26th April, 1996, at Concert and Congress Building "de Doelen", entrance Kruisplein 30, Rotterdam, at 9.30 hours.

AGENDA

- 1. Opening
2. To receive and adopt the Report of the Management Board for the financial year 1995
3. To receive and adopt the Annual Accounts for the financial year 1995
4. To determine the appropriation of the profit
5. To compose the Board of Supervisory Directors
6. To compose the Board of Directors
7. Any other business

Copies of the full agenda and of the Annual Reports for 1995 can be obtained from National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments, Centralised Securities Office, Basement, Jeno Court, 24 Prescott Street, London E1 8BB or Robeco U.K. Limited, 4 Carlos Place, Mayfair, London W1Y 5AE. Telephone: 0171-409 3507.

Holders ofBearer Share Certificates desiring of attending or being represented at the Meeting, should lodge their Certificates by hand (postal deliveries will not be accepted for voting purposes) with the National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments, Centralised Securities Office, Basement, Jeno Court, 24 Prescott Street, London E1 8BB (between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) in exchange for a receipt, not later than Friday, 19th April, 1996.

Beneficial owners whose Bearer Share Certificates are presently deposited with a Bank must obtain a Certificate of Deposit signed by the Bank as evidence that such Bank is holding the Share Certificates. The Certificate of Deposit must be lodged against receipt, by that Bank, with the National Westminster Bank PLC, in accordance with the requirements stated above.

The receipt for Bearer Share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit will constitute evidence of a shareholder's entitlement to attend and vote at the Meeting and should be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall. If a holder desires to appoint a proxy, who need not be a member of the Company, to attend and vote as his/her agent, a form of proxy may be obtained from the National Westminster Bank PLC as above and that form of proxy must be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall together with the receipt for the Bearer Share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit.

Beneficial owners of Sub-share Certificates registered in the name of National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited desiring of attending or being represented at the Meeting must obtain a receipt or Certificate of Deposit in the same way as holders of Bearer Share Certificates. If they desire to attend the Meeting in person or to be represented they must obtain a form of proxy signed by National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited, which form must be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall together with the receipt exchanged for the Sub-share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit.

Beneficial owners of Sub-shares registered in any name other than that of National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited, holders of Registered Full Shares and Shareholders who maintain a Shareholder's Account with the Company wishing to attend and vote at the Meeting or to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in their stead, must signify their intention by writing to the Secretary of Robeco N.V. or Robeco U.K. Limited, 4 Carlos Place, Mayfair, London W1Y 5AE, Tel: 0171-409 3507.

Service contracts are not entered into with the Directors, who hold office in accordance with the Articles of Association.

BY ORDER OF THE MANAGEMENT ROTTERDAM

Dated this 27th day of March, 1996

ROLINCO N.V.

(investment company with a variable capital)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

to be held on Friday, 26th April, 1996, at Concert and Congress Building "de Doelen", entrance Kruisplein 30, Rotterdam, at 11.45 hours.

AGENDA

- 1. Opening
2. To receive and adopt the Report of the Management Board for the financial year 1995
3. To receive and adopt the Annual Accounts for the financial year 1995
4. To determine the appropriation of the profit
5. To compose the Board of Supervisory Directors
6. To compose the Board of Directors
7. Any other business

Copies of the full agenda and of the Annual Reports for 1995 can be obtained from National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments, Centralised Securities Office, Basement, Jeno Court, 24 Prescott Street, London E1 8BB or Robeco U.K. Limited, 4 Carlos Place, Mayfair, London W1Y 5AE. Telephone: 0171-409 3507.

Holders ofBearer Share Certificates desiring of attending or being represented at the Meeting, should lodge their Certificates by hand (postal deliveries will not be accepted for voting purposes) with the National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments, Centralised Securities Office, Basement, Jeno Court, 24 Prescott Street, London E1 8BB (between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) in exchange for a receipt, not later than Friday, 19th April, 1996.

Beneficial owners whose Bearer Share Certificates are presently deposited with a Bank must obtain a Certificate of Deposit signed by the Bank as evidence that such Bank is holding the Share Certificates. The Certificate of Deposit must be lodged against receipt, by that Bank, with the National Westminster Bank PLC, in accordance with the requirements stated above.

The receipt for Bearer Share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit will constitute evidence of a shareholder's entitlement to attend and vote at the Meeting and should be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall. If a holder desires to appoint a proxy, who need not be a member of the Company, to attend and vote as his/her agent, a form of proxy may be obtained from the National Westminster Bank PLC as above and that form of proxy must be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall together with the receipt for the Bearer Share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit.

Beneficial owners of Sub-share Certificates registered in the name of National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited desiring of attending or being represented at the Meeting must obtain a receipt or Certificate of Deposit in the same way as holders of Bearer Share Certificates. If they desire to attend the Meeting in person or to be represented they must obtain a form of proxy signed by National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited, which form must be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall together with the receipt exchanged for the Sub-share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit.

Beneficial owners of Sub-shares registered in any name other than that of National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited, holders of Registered Full Shares and Shareholders who maintain a Shareholder's Account with the Company wishing to attend and vote at the Meeting or to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in their stead, must signify their intention by writing to the Secretary of Robeco N.V. or Robeco U.K. Limited, 4 Carlos Place, Mayfair, London W1Y 5AE, Tel: 0171-409 3507.

Service contracts are not entered into with the Directors, who hold office in accordance with the Articles of Association.

BY ORDER OF THE MANAGEMENT ROTTERDAM

Dated this 27th day of March, 1996

RORENTO N.V.

(investment company with a variable capital)

INFORMATIVE MEETING FOR SHAREHOLDERS

to be held on Monday, 29th April, 1996, at Concert and Congress Building "de Doelen", entrance Kruisplein 30, Rotterdam, at 14.30 hours.

AGENDA

- 1. Opening
2. To discuss the Report of the Management Board for the financial year 1995
3. To discuss the Annual Accounts for the financial year 1995
4. To discuss the appropriation of the profit
5. To discuss the remuneration of Supervisory Directors
6. To discuss the composition of the Board of Supervisory Directors
7. To discuss the composition of the Board of Directors
8. Any other business

Holders ofBearer Share Certificates desiring of attending or being represented at the above stated Meeting, should lodge their Share Certificates by hand (postal deliveries will not be accepted) with the National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments, Centralised Securities Office, Basement, Jeno Court, 24 Prescott Street, London E1 8BB (between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) as follows: INFORMATIVE MEETING - NOT LATER THAN FRIDAY, 19TH APRIL, 1996. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - NOT LATER THAN MONDAY, 22ND APRIL, 1996, IN EXCHANGE FOR A RECEIPT.

Beneficial owners whose Share Certificates are presently deposited with a Bank must obtain a Certificate of Deposit signed by the Bank as evidence that such Bank is holding the Share Certificates. This Certificate must be lodged against receipt, by that Bank, with the National Westminster Bank PLC, in accordance with the requirements stated above.

The receipt for the Share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit will constitute evidence of a shareholder's entitlement to attend and vote at the Meeting and should be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall. If a holder desires to appoint a proxy, who need not be a member of the Company, to attend and vote as his/her agent, a form of proxy may be obtained from the National Westminster Bank PLC as above and this form of proxy must be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall together with the receipt for the Share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit.

Shareholders who maintain a Shareholder's Account with the Company, wishing to attend either or both Meetings or to appoint a proxy in their stead, must signify their intention by writing to the Secretary, Rorento N.V. c/o Avireno N.V., Coolingled 120, NL-3011 AG Rotterdam, Netherlands to arrive not later than the dates indicated above.

Although proxies may attend, votes will not be cast at the Informative Meeting.

Copies of the full agenda and of the Annual Report for 1995 can be obtained from National Westminster Bank PLC at the address shown above or Robeco U.K. Limited, 4 Carlos Place, Mayfair, London W1Y 5AE. Tel: 0171-409 3507.

Service contracts are not entered into with the Directors, who hold office in accordance with the Articles of Association.

BY ORDER OF THE MANAGEMENT ST. MAAKTEN

Dated this 27th day of March 1996.

Advertisement for NatWest Share Offer. Features the headline 'The right line for Railtrack Registration.' and includes a NatWest logo, a 'Share Shop' logo, and contact information: 'Call 0990 600 600 24 hours a day, 7 days a week'.

□ Tracking the numbers, Labour allowing □ Red card for football shares □ Whence the next financial crisis?

# Fudge on the line

SOME time over the next few days, a couple of paragraphs of leaden prose will drop through the letterbox at the offices of SBC Warburg, in charge of the privatisation of Railtrack. Until the postman calls, normal investment criteria do not apply to one of this year's two biggest stock market debuts.

The best indications are that Labour, pledged to insert a policy statement into the Railtrack prospectus, will go for a political fudge, something along the lines of "when appropriate, we might or might not pursue our goal of stealing the track and signals back from the people who own it."

This would be an act of moral cowardice that would disappoint many, inside and outside the City, who had hoped for better from New Labour. But take it as a *fait accompli*, and it does allow a few preliminary numbers to be done and a few assumptions to be made about the Railtrack sale. Investors will want to know first, what sort of price they will be expected to put up, and second, what can go wrong with their investment thereafter. The price will reflect the dividend yield Railtrack's advisers think will be necessary to get the issue away, and how much higher this yield will have to be than that already on offer from existing privatised utilities.

The figures being worked on, all based on the financial year ending at the end of this week, allow comparison with two, the National Grid that was floated last year and BT, on the stock market for more than a decade.

Both yield approaching 7 per cent, high in stock market terms, because of the regulatory risks they face. BT is in open conflict with its regulator while the Grid, because of executive share options and other unpleasantness, is one of the bad boys in the utilities sector and may be heading for future grief.

Railtrack believes that while it must bear some political risk, the regulatory danger is slim: the restructured rail industry is held together by a network of contractual agreements between train operators, the Government and the regulator which would, legally, be the devil's work to unpick. The two balance out, assuming a Labour fudge, which suggests a similar yield to Grid and BT. Add on 10 to 15 per cent as a premium for investors and assume a 7 per cent dividend growth for the first year under private ownership, and the his-

toric yield at flotation works out somewhere short of 7.5 per cent.

We shall see. As to what can go wrong, there would seem to be only one real risk, and that is if the new Railtrack bosses prove even more incompetent than British Rail. Widespread signal failure, say, and the company loses revenue from the train operators in the form of track access charges to the point, ultimately, that it would be unable to pay a dividend.

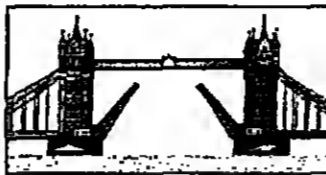
This would seem wildly improbable, even if much of the board are BR veterans. The only other possible risk comes from Labour. Over to you, Mr Blair.

## Millwall no match for the Reds

IT WOULD probably have been a closer contest if Manchester United had met Millwall on a football pitch. But yesterday the two football clubs met as stock market rivals to produce results that were in different leagues.

United oozed Premiership class as the company more than doubled pre-tax half year profits

## PENNINGTON



to £15.2 million and raised the interim dividend to 1.6p, even if the club had, by its high standards, a poor start to the season. Millwall saw losses treble to £376,000 and no dividend, even though attendances were up.

United's success, coupled with a promising stock market performance of late by Tottenham Hotspur, has led other clubs to explore the idea of flotation. In recent months, Chelsea, Leeds, Arsenal, Aston Villa, even poor old West Bromwich Albion struggling in the Endleigh League Division One, have expressed an interest in coming to the market.

But while United has become a reputable investment vehicle, even if one more geared to

fashion retail than skill in the goal mouth, other football clubs may not be such a success — especially given the run of the play so far. Manchester United is a global brand name that gives the company a lead in the chase for sponsorship and marketing deals and allows the club to weather a bad year on the pitch. Competition from Nike for United's kit contract forced Umbro to bid the price up to around £60 million.

Most of the other big clubs rely on the financial contributions of a football crazy sugar-daddy, such as Sir John Hall at Newcastle and Jack Walker at Blackburn. Shareholders in quoted clubs will be less keen than they are for success at any price, especially if it starts to hit dividend payments.

Above all, the gap between football success and failure will always remain marginal. It only takes one dodgy refereeing decision or a changing room bust-up with the strappy star striker to wreck the balance sheet. But the disregard shown by the fans for the financials will still drive the share price. Most football

share certificates will always belong on the bedroom wall, with the season ticket, the kit and the autographed teamsheet.

## Banking on the next disaster

BANKERS, like First World War generals it seems, are still fighting the war before. A list of 50 terrible things that could go wrong soon, culled from a survey of bankers, regulators and other professionals, includes inadequate regulation, a rogue trader, electronic fraud and a Japanese financial crisis.

All this, after Barings, Nick Leeson, a \$10 million computer theft from Citibank and the Daiwa scandal, suggests that the respondents at least read the news headlines. But their nomination for the biggest threat of all, the next runaway asteroid to splash down on the world banking system, does imply some degree of self-knowledge and wisdom — along with a chilling belief in the inevitability of the next banking disaster. That threat, in the Centre for

the Study of Financial Innovation's list of impending banana skins, is that over-capacity and thin margins require banks to do silly things to hold market share. "Unwise diversification, and an obsession with size rather than profitability" is a phrase that leaps out with a strangely 1980s air to it.

The worry is that while the majority of respondents think their industry is heading for disaster, each banker individually presumably thinks he or she is acting responsibly and in the interests of shareholders and account-holders. It is the other fellow who is getting it wrong.

## No saving grace

NOTABLE for its absence from Halifax's annual results yesterday was any comment on savings rates. Savers, forced to sit tight until they receive their payout after next year's conversion, are being kept in the dark. Will the recent cut in base rates force savings rates down, or will the Halifax, like its mutual rivals, absorb the cost and take the hit on its margins? A glance at the mortgage market might suggest the answer. The Nationwide, vociferously wedded to mutuality, will still be offering a cheaper mortgage than the Halifax when new rates come into effect on Monday.

## UniChem vows to carry on buying

By ERIC REGULY

UNICHEM, the drugs wholesaler and retailer, said that the monopolies referral of its £620 million bid for Lloyds Chemists will not deter it from growing by smaller acquisitions. Jeffery Harris, chief executive, said that the company expects to buy out 50 or more independent pharmacists in 1996 and will pursue its European expansion strategy by forming joint ventures in the wholesale market. Pharmacists, he said, typically cost £400,000, and there are thousands from which to choose. Mr Harris said that he

expects the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to clear UniChem's bid for Lloyds, subject to a disposal of some, or all, of UniChem's wholesale business, and to clear the rival bid by Gehe of Germany. "We'll both come back to the match again," he said. UniChem made pre-tax profits of £49.4 million for 1995, up 12.3 per cent. Turnover was £1.4 billion, up 5.9 per cent. Operating profits were £46.8 million, up 14 per cent. Earnings were 19p a share, against 18.8p. A 5.3p final dividend, up from 4.7p, makes 8p, up 12.2 per cent.

1 I'M VERY SORRY TO HEAR THAT. BUT I'M SURE WE CAN SORT OUT THE PROBLEM... ERR, MR SMITH. LEAVE IT TO ME.

2 QUITE EXTRAORDINARY. ONE OF OUR CUSTOMERS ACTUALLY MANAGED TO GET THROUGH TO ME JUST THEN.

3 MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

What British business wants from Europe

Philip Bassett on the EU governmental conference

Beef crisis? Not at Asda

MAD timing for Asda... which launched a multi-million-pound beef promotion throughout its supermarkets yesterday.

Europhobe

ALAN MEALE, MP for Mansfield and chairman of the Parliamentary Beer Club, was handed a one billion ecu coin outside the House of Commons yesterday.



Meale: billionaire

PHILLIPS, the auctioneer, was by far the most popular stand at the Society of Names conference in Jermyn Street yesterday.

Not me, lad

AUTHORSHIP of quotes is not always a precise science. So in attributing the quote that Halifax's £10 billion flotation next year will represent "possibly the biggest give-away in terms of value in the history of the world" to chief executive Mike Blackburn, who delivered it at yesterday's results, would be wrong.

Way to the top

JOHN FRY, deputy chairman of Abbey National, celebrated his retirement after 35 years with the building society-turned bank with some old friends and rivals at a cocktail party hosted by his chairman Lord Tugendhat this week.

SOME familiar faces were missing at Uni-Chem's preliminary results in London yesterday. When chief executive Jeff Harris asked why only half the analysts expected were there, he was told the others had opted at the last minute to join a freebie to a Barcelona condom factory instead.

MORAG PRESTON

Business leaders in Britain and Europe will be watching warily as the EU's leading politicians head for Turin for the start of the inter-governmental conference (IGC) on the future of Europe.

Unice, the cross-European employers' body, says it wants this IGC to avoid the difficulties encountered in 1991, the negotiating run-up to Maastricht. Chambers of commerce put it even more bluntly: "During the passage of the Maastricht treaty, there was little attention paid to the real effect on business, on jobs and on the prosperity of the nation."

Not this time, says business. This time, economic competitiveness — especially for Europe against the "tiger" economies of the Far East and the emerging economic forces of India and China — must be to the fore.

Adair Turner, CBI Director-General, says: "The EU faces two great challenges, the need to ensure that European business improves its competitiveness in world markets and the need to anchor the new democracies of Eastern Europe in an enlarged economic community."

The IGC will prove to be a distraction unless it delivers change to institutions and decision-making which make competitiveness and enlargement more easily attained.

Robin Geldard, President of the British Chambers of Commerce, agrees — making specific reference to the issue over Europe that business sees as the most important and as having the potential for the greatest distraction.

Our biggest worry would be that all this talk of a single currency, and more generally Europe, will divert UK business from the bigger objectives: competitiveness on a world stage.

British business leaders say there is already enough about the IGC to worry them. Although there is no formal agenda for the IGC talks, the Maastricht commitment for a review of the treaty has a primarily structural focus: issues such as the European legislative process, the EU presidency system, qualified majority voting, the number of commissioners, the powers of the European Parliament and the European Court of Justice.

Business leaders in the UK believe that such matters, vital in the high councils of Europe, seem at best of limited relevance to companies in Britain



Ruth Lea, of the Institute of Directors, says business is sending a clear message to politicians

worried about whether the slowdown in the economy will bite them as a new recession. But they insist that companies' complaints about Brussels, including legal measures — especially about employment — that they are still being required to implement show precisely why business should be concerned with the outcome of the IGC process.

In a letter to Malcolm Rifkind, Foreign Secretary, about the Government's pre-IGC document, the British Chambers of Commerce says: "We perceive the lack of other departments' input, particularly the Department of Trade and Industry's, in the White Paper... Certainly, the competitiveness unit of Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister was barely involved in preparing the UK's IGC line."

Business irritation at the IGC's perceived lack of competitiveness focus is widespread. But such unity masks deeper divisions over Europe, which business fears the IGC may amplify when the pork-barrel politics of the EU draws the whole process in towards what will inevitably be a compromise deal at its end, in 18 months to two years' time.

"Unice reaffirms its support for the objective of economic and monetary union and the introduction of the single currency on the basis of the Maastricht treaty conditions and timetable," says the European employers' body in its document for the IGC. "The forthcoming IGC must not reopen negotiations on EMU."

Such a bold statement makes Unice's British member, the CBI, uneasy. Indeed, Unice's IGC paper includes a

CBI "opt-out" clause on the point, recognising the the confederation's support for the UK Government's single currency opt-out.

Opinion and anecdotal evidence confirm British business's dichotomy over Europe. With the rest of Europe as a key export market, business in the UK is firmly wedded to close and continuing European co-operation. But it finds some of Europe's views, especially on social affairs, hard to take, at least in theory. The practical experience of some EU legislation, such as European works councils, is proving perhaps less of a horned beast than some of the ideological tub-thumping from business at first suggested.

That leads to conflicting accounts of what business thinks. In its repeated calls for a "rational debate" on Europe, the CBI is at the same time clearly critical of the UK Government, which, it says, "needs to establish its credibility as a constructive force committed to the EU."

Yet organisations such as the Institute of Directors, which is devoting the whole of its annual conference next month to Europe, claims a strong and strongly hostile homogeneity to

some key European issues such as the single currency and the social chapter. Ruth Lea, IoD policy head, says: "Business is sending a very clear message to politicians about these issues, and we hope they will be carefully noted during negotiations in the forthcoming IGC."

What British business wants from the IGC is clear: □ Competitiveness. Business says that if Europe fails to be competitive it will be incapable of achieving any of its objectives. At present, strengthening competitiveness is only an "activity" of the EU. For the IGC, business in Europe is proposing that it be upgraded to a full objective.

□ Single market. More than three years after coming into effect, the single market is seen by business as incomplete. If the powers of European institutions need to be changed, business wants to see them enhanced to ensure the full completion of the single market.

□ EMU. In the main, business is positive about monetary union. However, it remains worried about the convergence criteria and the timetable. If the IGC is to touch EMU, it should enact change only that enhances rather than detracts from it.

□ Deregulation. Business fears that the IGC will lead to a new raft of regulation and is insisting that any proposals for amendments to Maastricht should be specifically and rigorously tested for their effect on the creation and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises.

□ Transparency. Any IGC changes to European institutions, such as the voting strengths of different member states, should be clear and judged on the basis of efficiency and the equity of implementation.

□ Social policy. A competitiveness test is the bare minimum, and some business leaders now state that there are simply no further areas where any EU legislation should impact upon the employment relationship; in other words, social policy should stop.

All this is a sizeable agenda. But business feeling is that however sizeable, it is not the IGC's agenda. That means business will be looking hard at Turin and what follows.

Peter Agar, the CBI's deputy director-general, says: "We are not saying, drop the IGC agenda, and do something completely different, but whatever it says on institutional change we ought to ask is that going to help deliver a Europe better able to compete in world markets, to grow and to create jobs."



ANTHONY HARRIS

Next climbdown: Helmut and his mad EMU plan?

The embattled John Major and the triumphant Helmut Kohl have not got much in common. But they do share two striking qualities: a political will which confounds their opponents; and an ability to ignore uncomfortable realities which is the despair of their supporters.

Major may seem to have followed his model, Mr Micawber, into the realms of pure fantasy. What, apart from EU subsidies, can possibly turn up to help him this time? Public memory is short, and tax cuts and the small of roast beef may yet prove more appetising than now seems possible; but first there must be some sort of climbdown, and yet more humiliation. He is also no doubt aware (and Tony Blair clearly agrees) that public indignation against the EU could be very helpful to the Tories; and Brussels has played his game by over-reacting.

The Kohl game plan is just the opposite. Helmut, who reunited Germany at one bold (and expensive) stroke is now going to unite Europe itself. He clearly understands the romantic German soul much better than his bean-counting SDP opponents. They were trying to frighten German voters into clinging to their D-mark, got it wrong, and so helped to rescue the Free Democrats for the umpteenth time. The Chancellor will be harder than ever to restrain at the inter-governmental meeting in Turin. But despite appearances, he too is playing Micawber.

What he hopes will turn up is the German economy. Unless the current mild German revival matures into something really big, it may be Germany rather than France which misses the EMU convergence criteria. The French have realistically revised their growth forecast for this year down to 1.4 per cent, and still hope to get within a plausible change we ought to ask is that going to help deliver a Europe better able to compete in world markets, to grow and to create jobs.

of over 3 per cent, which would require boom conditions in the second half of the year, to get no nearer than the French.

Implausible, but not impossible in present conditions. The Bundesbank has cut rates more boldly than anyone expected. It has already achieved a 6 per cent devaluation against the dollar, and a renewal of broad money growth which has encouraged broad monetarists to forecast a boom. The catch is that official plans would undermine current conditions. The bond market is expecting further "savage" Budget cuts and the Bundesbank's good work; and the plan to finance cuts in employment taxes with a sharp rise in VAT could shake voters out of their romantic dreams.

These are not the only dangers. First, how much will low rates help? History suggests German growth and investment are more responsive to long-term interest rates than to money rates, and here policy has been much less successful. German bonds now yield more than their US counterparts — a familiar pattern in London, but a new and rather humiliating one in Frankfurt. Have investors noticed the US is now much easier to Maastricht virtue than any EU member?

EMU itself is partly to blame for German bond troubles. Foreign investors are a little chary of D-mark bonds which may be restrained in unknown euros. Any suggestion of fudge on the Maastricht rules will make them chancier; and we already have a steep yield curve. This does not usually promote growth; and it may well inhibit Duba from more cuts to reduce overvaluation of the core European currencies.

If Germany gets a shock, such as Holland's from the folkier collapse, the political mood could become very fragile. Small wonder then, that some of Kohl's supporters want an easier timetable. For the present, he will follow the Major strategy, and keep his fingers crossed. But next year?

Annual Meeting of Shareholders

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders will be held on Thursday, May 9, 1996, 10:00 a.m. at BASF-Feierabendhaus, Leuschnerstraße 47, Ludwigshafen/Rhine, Germany

- Agenda 1. Presentation of the Financial Statements of BASF Aktiengesellschaft and BASF Group for 1995; presentation of the 1995 Annual Report covering BASF Aktiengesellschaft and the BASF Group; presentation of the Supervisory Board Report. 2. Declaration of dividend. 3. Ratification of the actions of the Supervisory Board. 4. Ratification of the actions of the Board of Executive Directors. 5. Appointment of an auditor. 6. Authorization of the Board of Executive Directors to issue bonds with warrants of the company; creation of conditional capital. 7. Reduction in the nominal value of a proportion of the shares of a proportion of the shares issued by the company.

Shareholders wishing to participate in the Annual Meeting and to exercise their right to vote must have deposited their shares during normal office hours and in the prescribed form at a depository bank. The shares should remain deposited until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. Shareholders have the right to vote by proxy. Depository banks and the full Agenda are published in the "Bundesanzeiger" of the German Federal Republic Nr. 60 of March 26, 1996.

Depository banks in the U.K.: Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

The deposit is only effective if the shares are submitted by Thursday, May 2, 1996.

The Board of Executive Directors Ludwigshafen/Rhine, March 26, 1996

BASF Aktiengesellschaft 67056 Ludwigshafen



From left, Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, Malcolm Rifkind, and Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister

BUSINESS LETTERS

The real question for Britain's petrol forecourt giants

From Dr Marcel Cohen Sir, I write in response to articles on March 1 on the BP and Mobil forecourt link-up. My own research shows that Mobil's trading territory has less overlap with other brands than its competitors. Therefore a link-up with Mobil is an attractive proposition for petrol companies wishing to access "new" sales. No doubt BP will have done its own homework and arrived at the same conclusion. BP and Mobil tell us that increasing the volumes base will save costs. However, "buying" new volumes does not address the underlying question — why is volume falling in the first place? You do not need an MBA to work out the main problem facing petrol marketers is that motorists perceive little or no difference between competing brands. Surely it is this issue that oil companies should address.

Lloyd's losses

From Mr John Pincham Sir, Will the DTI require hardpressed British members of Lloyd's to pay shares of losses not collectible from non-paying American members as well as shares of losses not collectible from dead, bankrupt and elusive members? Yours faithfully, JOHN PINCHAM (County Councillor — Claygate and Hinchley Wood), 35 Lodge Close, Stoke D'Abernon, Surrey.

Finland flies the European Union flag

From Mr Donald Tait Sir, It appears from Anthony Harris's article on March 20 about the EU unemployment problem that his antipathy towards things "European" has clouded slightly his memory. Finland became a member of the European Union in January 1995. Perhaps he meant Norway, or somewhere totally different. Yours faithfully, DONALD TAIT, 29 Sint-Katelijne Straat, 1000 Brussels, Belgium.

Let the marketing director get in the picture

From Mr Noel Gee Sir, At company annual report time we always seem to be shown a picture of the chief executive accompanied by the finance director. Ought this not to be the marketing director? After all, he generates the company income: the finance man only has to count it. Yours faithfully, NOEL GEE, 4 Rushmead Ham, Richmond Surrey.

# Charter leaps to £104m and seeks big buy

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

CHARTER, the industrial products company, yesterday announced full-year profits of £103.7 million, compared with £55.7 million for a nine-month period in 1994, and said it was seeking a big acquisition.

Jeffrey Herbert, chief executive, said the company wanted to buy "a market-leading industrial business" for about £250 million. But he added that while it had looked at a number of options, no purchase was imminent.

Mr Herbert was also confi-

dent about the outlook for the company this year. He said: "We view the future with confidence. The acquisition of Esab has been successfully bedded in and the business is led by an experienced and dedicated team."

The City was impressed by the results and shares in the company rose 14p to close at 895p. Turnover rose from £527 million for the nine months in 1994 to £1.1 billion in 1995. Earnings per share on a comparable nine-month period rose 71 per cent to 76.5p. The total 27.5p dividend represents a rise of 14.6 per cent on an annualised basis.

Esab, the welding division, produced profits of £74.6 million in its first full year since acquisition. The company said it had performed strongly in all its main markets except Germany but that it was confident of improving its position this year.

Pandrol, the rail track arm, increased profits from £9.6 million (nine months) to £15 million. The building materials division also improved to £12.4 million compared with £9.6 million (nine months). The net margin rate rose to 9.2 per cent. Gearing fell to 17 per cent after £80 million of disposals last year. A final dividend of 19p is payable on May 24.

## Bid defence cost Country Casuals £1m

COUNTRY CASUALS incurred costs of £1.1 million defending itself against a takeover bid by John Shannon, its former chief executive, last year, the fashion group said yesterday.

In spite of the exceptional charge, the company made pre-tax profits of £249,000 for the year to January 27, up from losses of £987,000 in the previous year. Earnings per share were 0.60p, against losses of 4.45p. The total dividend rises to 5.41p, from 4.3p, with a 4p final. The shares rose 2p to 156p. Sales from ongoing businesses rose by 9.7 per cent, to £52.8 million.



Mike Stacey, left, chief executive, and Terry Twigger, finance director, of Meggitt, where there has been substantial restructuring

## Meggitt loss reaches £22m

MEGGITT, the engineering company that underwent a substantial restructuring last year, has disclosed losses of £22.7 million before tax for 1995, compared with losses of £468,000 in the previous 12 months.

Latest losses include a provision of £19.9 million against the proposed disposal of Plastic Fabricating, a subsidiary.

In spite of the substantial cost of reshaping the business, Meggitt is maintaining the total dividend at 3.93p a share, with a 2.63p final.

## Iceland ahead for 25th time

BY SARAH BAGNALL

THE benefits of a big marketing campaign together with a tighter strategic focus helped Iceland Group, the frozen food retailer, celebrate its 25th year of consecutive profits' growth.

The group added that during this year it plans to spend £25 million on refining more than 100 of its older stores and plans to open 40 more. Last year Iceland opened 56 new stores, lifting the total to 752. The group's capital expenditure is expected to rise £9

million to £75 million because of the new store openings, refurbishments and planned investment in IT systems.

Pre-tax profits edged ahead 3.4 per cent from £70.2 million to £72.6 million on sales up 5.6 per cent at £1.4 billion in the year to December 30.

Food sales rose 5.8 per cent to £1.3 billion, in spite of an autumn fall in like-for-like sales. In September, in an attempt to counter this, a big marketing campaign was

launched, coinciding with its 25th anniversary. Malcolm Walker, chairman and chief executive, said: "This resulted in a turnaround in like-for-like food sales from minus 3.5 per cent in the first nine weeks of the second half to 2 per cent growth in the final 17 weeks."

The final 3.6p dividend, due May 24, makes a year's total of 5.25p, up 25 per cent from last time. Earnings per share rose 1.8 per cent to 17p. The shares gained 3p to 155p.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Higher volume lifts Lloyd Thompson

NEW contracts with British Telecom, Halifax Building Society, and RTZ helped increase business for Lloyd Thompson Group, the international insurance and reinsurance broker, for the six months to December 31. Brokerage rose 8 per cent to £23.1 million from higher volume, while pre-tax profit increased 14 per cent to £10.4 million.

Ken Carter, chief executive, said results for the first half had benefited from a high level of investment income, although, given the decline in interest rates in recent months, this was unlikely to be maintained in the second half. The interim dividend is lifted to 3p (2.75p).

## ALP in property sale

ALLIED LONDON PROPERTY has raised £42 million through the sale of 12 investment properties to an unidentified, private property company. The portfolio included office, industrial and retail properties with a book value of £40.9 million. Net rental income of the properties is £4.2 million a year, ALP said. The company also reported a decline in pre-tax profits to £4.2 million in the six months to the end of December from £5.89 million in the first half of the previous year. The interim dividend is held at 1.18p.

## Barr & Wallace slides

BARR & WALLACE ARNOLD TRUST, the motor retail and leisure group, is maintaining the total dividend for 1995 at 11p a share, with an unchanged 8p final payout, after a decline in annual profits to £4.6 million before tax from £5.6 million. Earnings were 20.8p a share against 22.3p. The company said overheads and gearing were reduced, strengthening the balance sheet. Trading so far this year was generally in line with the board's expectations and was ahead of last year. The shares fell 4p to 22p.

## Barclays picks Norwich

NORWICH UNION has beaten competition from Royal Insurance and Commercial Union to supply household insurance products to Barclays Insurance Services (Bisco). Norwich Union will provide personal general insurance products and claims services to Bisco's 500,000 customers in a deal worth more than £100 million a year in premium income. Norwich Union will provide a 24-hour claims service, starting with household clients, to be followed by other personal insurance projects. Bisco had been using a panel of insurers.

## Wetherspoon funding

JD WETHERSPOON, the acquisitive UK pub operator, is raising £13.5 million through a private placing of shares in America. Institutional investors have subscribed for 1.8 million new shares, representing 5 per cent of the company's share capital, at 786p each. Existing shares put on 39p to 830p yesterday. The company said that the proceeds of the placing, combined with recently agreed additional bank facilities, will be used to fund further expansion.

## Hamleys thanks tourists

Hamleys, the self-styled finest toyshop in the world, showed the benefit of a mini tourist boom in 1995 with a £750,000 rise in pre-tax profits to £6.4 million in the year to January 27.

The flagship Regent Street store in London achieved a 10 per cent sales increase and stores at Covent Garden, Heathrow and serving the Channel Tunnel achieved combined growth of 42 per cent.

Howard Dyer, the chairman, said: "Current trading is ahead of last year, although the impact of the potential return of terrorism is an unknown factor." The dividend is raised from 7p to 8.1p, with a 5.4p final, on earnings per share of 19.3p, compared with 21.2p.

## Upton back to the black

Upton & Southern, the department stores group that came close to collapse last summer after putting the Reject Shop chain into receivership, returned to profit in the 26 weeks to January 27.

The retailer made a pre-tax profit of £274,000 on sales of £4.8 million compared with a £1.2 million loss last time on sales of £20.6 million. There is no final dividend.

## Boxmore boost

Boxmore International, the packaging company based in Northern Ireland, lifted pre-tax profits to £11.1 million in 1995 from £7.05 million in 1994. Total dividend rises to 5.28p a share from 4.48p, with a 3.66p final. Harold Ennis, chairman, said that although a cautious view may be taken of European economies, many export markets are still buoyant. The shares rose 20p to 502p.

## Mature savings

More than £4 billion of National Savings 36th Issue of Savings Certificates and Series C Capital Bonds will begin to mature on April 2, five years after their purchase date. All will have matured by May 2 1997. The Government's savings arm estimates that, based on previous experience, 65-75 per cent of the maturing funds will be reinvested into Capital Bonds, the current series is J, Fixed Rate and index-linked Savings Certificates.

## Crest cover

The Treasury yesterday issued a consultation document outlining proposed amendments to the Financial Services Act that will give investors better protection when Crest, the new computerised and paperless share settlement system, comes into effect in July.

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10:45 A brief summary of financial support and training available for software companies in Scotland, by Alan McCulloch, Finance Manager, SES.

11:15 Depart for Forth Valley Software Centre.

12:00 Arrive at Forth Valley Software Centre, at Stirling. Lunch with Eileen Roberts, Chief Executive of Forth Valley Innovation, and a formal meeting with senior personnel of Zeph.

12:45 Depart for Livingston Software Innovation Centre.

13:00 Arrive at Livingston Software Innovation Centre. Meeting with John Liddell, General Manager. A tour of the software park and a formal meeting with senior personnel from IBM.

13:45 Depart for Glasgow.

14:00 Arrive at Cray Systems. For an informal meeting with senior personnel from Cray.

17:00 Depart for US HQ.

17:30 Depart for Robert's gateway home.

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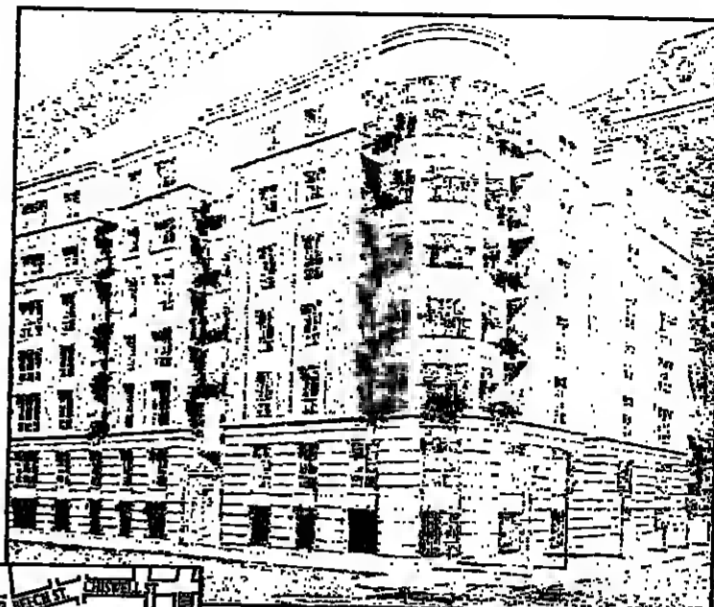
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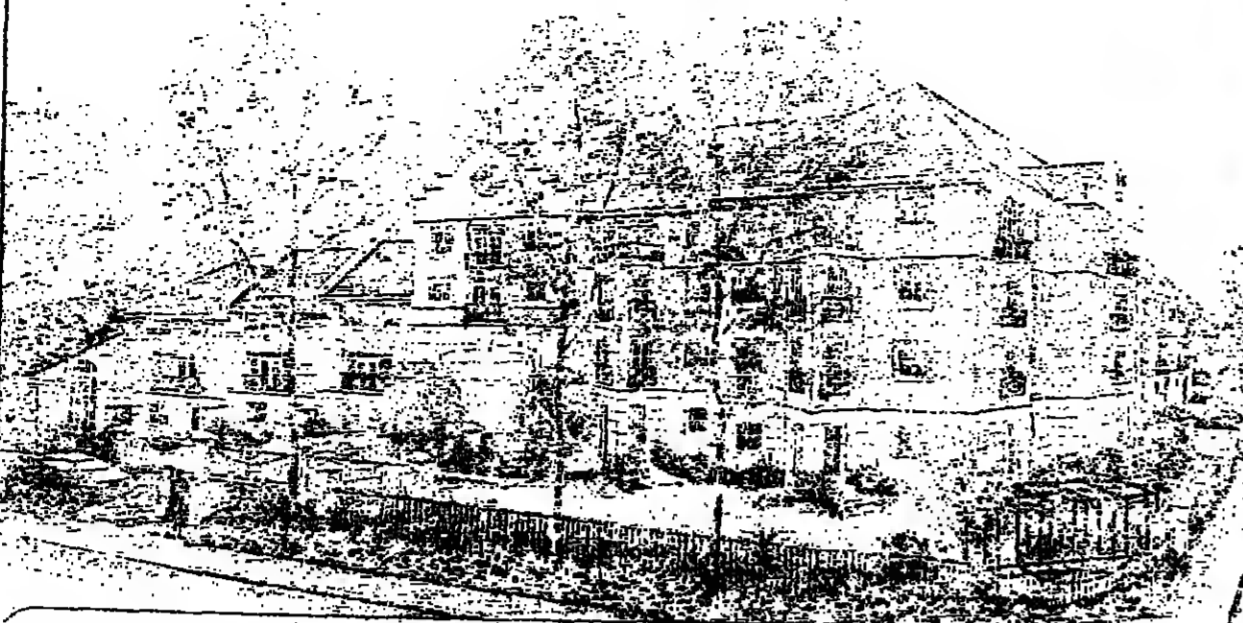
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<b>GATEHOUSE OF FLEET</b> Modern detached bungalow in own grounds (1/2 acre) with beautiful landscaped garden. The property overlooks the River Fleet and Gateway Hills. Approximately 3 miles out from central London, situated in a quiet, leafy residential area. The property comprises large L shaped living, dining room, family room and sunny fitted kitchen, sitting room, 3 double bedrooms, 1 ensuite bathroom, double garage, 1/2 acre double garage. No traffic but pleasant walks to shops. £180,000 Tel: 01925 571079 or 01557 814846.	<b>RICHARD EYERTINGTON &amp; CO</b> Surrey New Street, Putney, West London SW15 2JH 01778 343111	<b>PIMLICO</b> Warwick Square, 1 bed ground floor flat, new kitchen & bathroom, well maintained, 104 year lease. £106,000. 0171 630 5262	<b>NOTTING HILL</b> A beautifully refurbished spacious one bedroom flat. Large reception room, kitchen/breakfast room, bedroom with en suite bathroom, guest cloakroom. Balcony with south westerly views. Leasehold. Excess £395,000 Apply: Sloane Street 0171 824 8171
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CHOICE 1

Mark Elder takes up the baton for a revival of Strauss's *Arabella*

VENUE: Tonight at the Royal Opera House

CHOICE 2

Peter Hall stages a Feydeau adaptation, *Emily Needs Attention*

VENUE: On tour this week in Richmond

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 3

Yuri Bashmet brings viola and virtuosity to Scotland

VENUE: On tour, see below, left, for details

DANCE

*Cinderella* is treated to a splendid ball in ENB's superb staging at the Coliseum

LONDON

ARABELLA The Opera House may have lost both its lead...

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

INVERNESS: Viola player...

HARRY AND ME: Opening night...

EMILY NEEDS ATTENTION: Peter Hall...

LIVERPOOL: Brad Cohen takes up the baton...

DISGRACEFULLY YOURS: Richard O'Brien plays the scolding host...

NEW RELEASES: CYCLO (15) Over-forgotten portrait...

JEFFREY (16) Should a gay man have sex?

TOY STORY (PG) Computer-animated Disney delight...

BRUWERBART (15) Mel Gibson directs and stars in Oscar-nominated blood-dripping caper...

CASINO (18) Scorsese's epic of Las Vegas in the 1930s...

LA CEREMONIE (15) The perfect moment gets her revenge...

GET SHORTLY (15) John Travolta's landmark take on the movie business...

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18) Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death...

LA CEREMONIE (15) The perfect moment gets her revenge...

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British Museum: Darius, Uncovering the Past...

National Gallery: The Last Supper...

Scottish National Gallery: The Last Supper...

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Beautiful transformation



Lisa Pavane as Cinderella, Greg Horsman as the Prince in ENB's joyous production

Cinderella Coliseum This is just what English National Ballet needed...

Why the charts are a load of rubbish Garbage Brixton Academy

Even when a cutting-edge band carries the extra blade of radio-friendly melody...

And so it is with Garbage. Butch Vig's band was built around robust American guitar-wielding and the alluring vocal and visual presence of Scottish singer Shirley Manson...

And she has spent five months in the UK charts. Now, following singles chart success...

And she has spent five months in the UK charts. Now, following singles chart success...

Corder clearly adores Prokofiev's brilliant score (he uses all of it)...

The choreography strikes deep: some of the best is for the ensemble...

her dancing phrased with luxuriant fluency in the upper body...

There are excellent performances by Elisabeth Miesge and Monica Peregó...

As for the principals, Corder knows how to make them look their best...

As for the principals, Corder knows how to make them look their best...

JAZZ

Local boy made cool

IT IS now nearly 30 years since the famous occasion when Miles Davis walked into Ronnie Scott's...

Braxton and Chick Corea, through "supergroup" work with Herbie Hancock...

Holland's is an exemplary bass sound: full, resonant and sonorous...

Such was the quartet's eagerness to stretch out on Holland's up-tempo tunes...

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